FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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來歷不明的飛行物體

KUALA LUMPUR UFO

For translation of caption, see page 19

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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NEW HORIZON

FOR the best part of its fifteen years, FLYING SAUCER REVIEW has urged that every manner of UFO and associated report should be critically examined. Nothing reported, it has been insisted, should be accepted without close scrutiny; nothing rejected merely because it sounds silly.

Unfortunately there has been a noticeable tendency among dedicated "ufologists", as well as among a sceptical public, to reject anything that "sounds silly". As a result, observe the strange spectacle of those who, while declaiming that UFOs can only be interplanetary machines, shake their heads in disapproval at nearly every suggestion by a witness that the "pilots" of these "craft" have been observed. And the horror, not only of the hardware "nuts and bolts" brigade but also of practically every other serious researcher, is complete when a witness claims to have had contact with the "ufonauts" and to have received a "message".

The raucous shouts of disapproval have been directed not only at the contactees, but also at journalist John Keel. Mr. Keel has devoted almost every minute he has had to a rigorous searching for, and unearthing of facts in localities of frequently reported UFO activity in the United States. Many of these facts have been unusual, a few unpalatable to some, and others, not unexpectedly, are misidentifications. Hence the outcries from assorted amateur critics, most of whom have been silenced by Mr. Keel's solid professionalism.

For the last five or six years we of FSR have considered the mounting "evidence" and have marshalled our speculations in the search for new horizons. About two years ago Mr. Keel discovered that the ideas he was formulating as a result of his West Virginia, Ohio and Long Island probing were somewhat "in tune" with ours. Readers of his article *The Time Cycle Factor* elsewhere in this issue, will see that he has set his sights firmly on a new horizon. This important contribution underlines the necessity for a close study of *The Humanoids* and particularly of FSR's latest special edition *Beyond Condon*. . . .

It also shows the need for open-minded study even of the derided contactee cases shorn of their aura of cultism—remember that this lunatic fringe aspect of the cases *may have been intended*—and making sure no details are overlooked. On the new horizon even these cases may be found to have a considerable degree of importance.

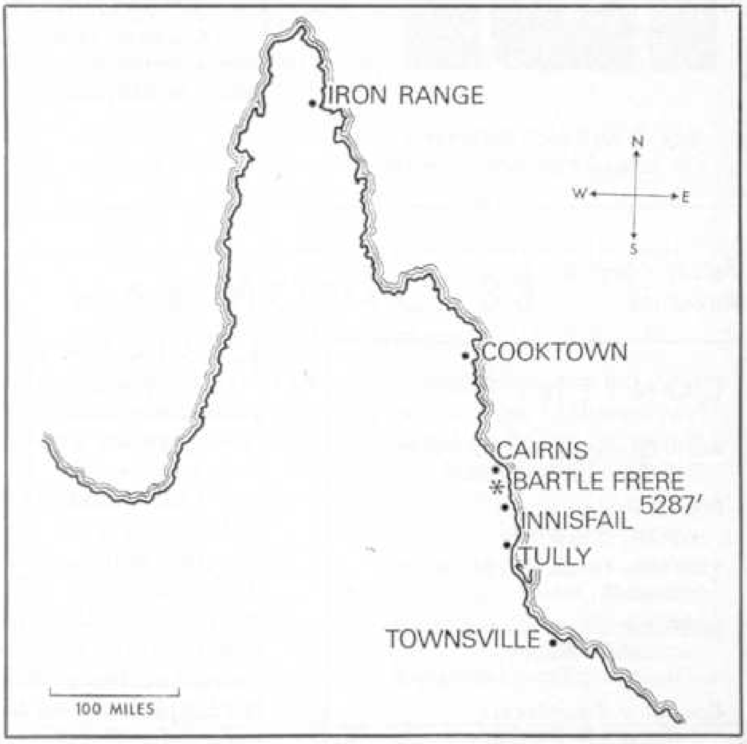
While FLYING SAUCER REVIEW has been pleased to publish work which will help its readers to look enquiringly to the new horizon, it must be understood that this is part and parcel of a desire to get on with the research. We do not advocate the discarding of dusty old theories. Indeed, they should be borne in mind because it could be found that *every* hypothesis—as well as every aspect, however weird—may have some validity, some part, in the final reckoning.

NORTH QUEENSLAND UFO SAGA

Stan Seers and William Lasich

THE sparsely-populated coast of North Queensland opposite the Great Barrier Reef abounds in vegetative growth. Tall reed or cane concealing "flying saucer nests" form a notable feature of the UFO saga which began[1] with the adventure of George Pedley, a 27-year-old banana farmer of Euramo near Tully, some 95 miles south of Cairns.

Queensland, Australia— UFO-busy north-eastern coastline



At about 9.00 a.m. on the clear sunny morning of Wednesday, January 19, 1966, Pedley was driving a petrol tractor across the property of a friend and neighbour, Mr. Albert Pennisi, cane farmer and resident of some 19 years.

The farm track along which he drove wound its way towards, and thence alongside, what is locally known as Horseshoe Lagoon. This contained an area of still water about 5ft. deep and an acre or so in extent, much of which was covered by a thick growth of water reeds, the stems of these, about ½in. in diameter protruding above the surface to a height of approximately 2ft.

As he approached the lagoon, which was to his right, with the sun by this time well up in the sky to his left, he thought he detected a misfire in the tractor motor. Almost immediately over the noise of the tractor he heard a sharp hissing noise, and then to his amazement he saw rising from the reeds, approximately 25 yards to his right and slightly ahead of him, a saucer-shaped object which ascended fairly slowly to an estimated height of 60ft., tilted a little to one side and then with a burst of speed quickly vanished in a south-westerly direction. Except for the original hissing noise, no other sound was heard. The total time of observation was estimated at 4 to 5 seconds.

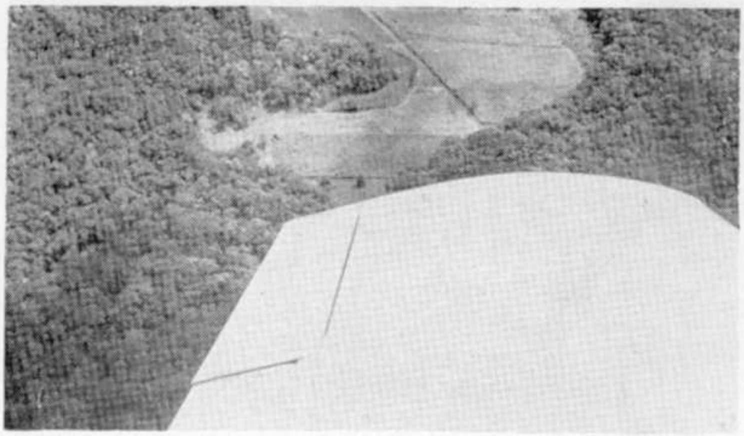
Mr. Pedley stated that the object was approximately 25ft. in diameter, about 9ft. thick at the centre, silver grey in colour and generally sharp in outline. He jumped from the tractor and hurried across to the lagoon from whence the object had ascended and immediately discovered a circular flattened area within the tall green reeds. The flattened stems were radially distributed in a noticeably anti-clockwise manner.[2] He was emphatic that the swathed reeds were at that time quite green, as were all other reeds outside this area. The swathe of newly-flattened reeds formed a "nest" of 30ft. diameter.

He further noted an area of giant water couch grass immediately outside the perimeter of the "nest", about a square yard of which had been apparently clipped short and the clippings removed. Pedley is positive in recollection that the water of the "nest" was *still swirling* slightly in a circular motion at the moment when he first saw it.

After a few minutes he returned to the tractor, started the motor and went on his way. When questioned later, Mr. Pedley stated that he could not remember whether or not he switched the motor off when leaving it, stalled the motor when stopping, or whether it just cut out after he left it, but is quite certain that the tractor motor was "dead" when he returned since he clearly remembers restarting it. The motor electrical ignition system was the conventional one for the model.

Later in the day he felt that he should tell someone of what he had seen, so called on Mr. Albert Pennisi, owner of the lagoon and surrounding property and related to him his experience. At about 4.00 p.m. they returned together to the lagoon. Mr. Pennisi stripped, waded out to the "nest" and found that it was possible to swim through from side to side *below* the flattened area, without meeting with any obstruction, indicating quite clearly that the whole mass of the "nest" was actually *floating* on the surface.

Shortly afterwards, at about 5.00 p.m., Mr. Pennisi, using colour film took a series of photographs. The prints subsequently obtained, clearly substantiate a remarkable feature which both witnesses had observed and remarked on. The



Two aerial views of the Horseshoe Lagoon, near Tully, Queensland

flattened reeds in the "nest" had turned noticeably brown, but *only on the upper surfaces*. The underside of each reed nearest the water still remained quite green. This "browning" of the upper surfaces of the reeds had quite obviously taken place since 9 a.m. that morning.

A resurgence of "nest" phenomena at the same Tully lagoon has occurred recently (January/February 1968). Sometime earlier, noting a prediction of sunspot maximum for May 1968 by the Swiss authority M. Waldmeive, QFSRB were primed[3] to the possibility of increased UFO activity in 1968.

With this in mind, it was decided to set up two monitor stations, No. 1 in the Tully district (North Queensland) and No. 2 in the South, some 20 miles out of Brisbane. The precise location of sites must remain undisclosed, since the monitors operate virtually unattended at some distance from habitation.

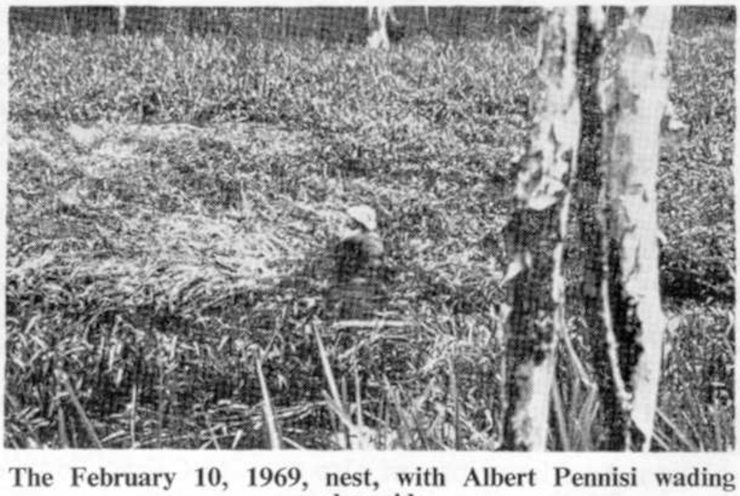
The equipment at No. 1 station was set up by Mr. Vince Mele with the assistance of an electronics friend. The monitor is built around a photo-cell and sensitive magnetic compass. The photo-cell light beam is interrupted if magnetic disturbance is present, and the fluctuation of photo-cell current then activates the cine-camera release. The camera (Eumig 8 mm. auto.) is energised so long as magnetic field disturbance continues (five frames exposed per 2-second interval).

During February a spontaneous magnetic field disturbance was actually recorded during initial trials. On the same day a UFO sighting was reported by an isolated witness, some eight miles from the base. Heavy cloud cover in the area impeded further observation of the UFO flight trajectory. The information was not enough to provide 100 per cent proof that the detector was UFO-triggered on this occasion. Nevertheless things looked quite promising.

At the end of February both monitors were fitted with cameras, tested and operating. On March 2, Tully lagoon contained four nests, then about three weeks old. The camera site was screened from view some 50ft. from the nearest "nest". On this date radio 4KZ broadcast an arresting news flash! An airliner en route Cairns to Iron Range had been paced at 6,000ft. for some minutes by a UFO some 2,000ft. above the aircraft. Both airline pilots witnessed the event. Somewhere over Cooktown area the UFO broke contact and shot off at enormous speed (described as something like 1,500 m.p.h.). An inspection of the No. 1 monitor found the camera still in motion although all 25ft. of colour film[4] had been run through and the batteries were nearly exhausted. The roll of 16-mm. film was removed and reversed for a second run, and new batteries installed. (Technically this indicates the field perturbation—cum UFO—was present for the whole 10 minutes the film was run.)

On March 4, two days later, quite a number of local inhabitants reported the passage of another UFO. An inspection of the monitor again revealed that it had been "triggered", but this time, for some

The Lagoon from over the top of the monitor camera



The February 10, 1969, nest, with Albert Pennisi wading alongside

unknown reason, only some 15 or 16 frames of the film had been exposed. An examination of the batteries which had been carefully tested and were fully charged when fitted, revealed that they were quite flat.

The remainder of the film was wound through by hand, removed from the camera, sealed in the usual container and addressed to Kodak Ltd., Melbourne, for processing, all of this in the presence of two reliable witnesses. It was then conveyed to Tully for posting, the packet was weighed, and the charge was 14 cents. Some 10 days later a letter was received from Kodak stating that the container, which was returned to the sender, *had been empty on arrival!* The empty container still had the 14 cent stamp attached, and a quick check at the Post Office established that the postage on an empty container was 5 cents only. Further exchanges with Kodak Ltd. produced no results.

The loss of the film was reported to the civil police who were very co-operative, but after a careful detective investigation interstate, were unable to shed light on the mystery of the vanished film so far as can be quoted from official statement. Unofficially, however, a hint was thrown out by a person of reliable character and seemingly well informed in police matters, that it was likely that Commonwealth authorities had taken possession of the film and therefore it would be useless to pursue enquiries further.

To complete the "cloak and dagger" atmosphere, even more bizarre was a seemingly casual suggestion conveyed to one of the UFO investigators by an individual undoubtedly knowledgeable in government intelligence activities. This "contact" advised our UFO researching colleague that *next* time the UFO camera ought to be loaded with black and white film. Is this too incredible? No, probably just the verdict of hard-won experience in the photographic lab. of "salvaging" difficult aircraft images, under-exposed and diffused by grain and distortion. Even perhaps of UFOs?

It is not without interest also to record, shortly after loss of the film, circa March 13, two R.A.A.F. helicopters were observed for some time deploying over the site of the very lagoon significant to the events described, by the owner of the properties concerned. Several "saucer nests" were still visible at this date.

The main January 1966 nest

Mr. Colin Bennett, M.L.A., Barrister, after studying complete documentation of the incident, expressed keen interest and promptly offered his every assistance in inquiries. Mr. Bennett then wrote to Canberra concerning the missing UFO film, presenting, he stated, "a submission to the Commonwealth Authorities in rather strong terms."

In a reply from Canberra dated August 29, Mr. Gordon Freeth, Minister for Air stated he was unable to offer any suggestion as to the fate of the film. He denied positively the Department of Air had ever, at any time, removed from Kodak Ltd., material relating to UFOs.

So far a disappointing outcome for UFO researchers. Could it be that sensible lifemanship indicates the affair might as well be allowed to fade into limbo. Let the UFOs "buzz-off" so we can get on with our own affairs. A public philosophy endorsed by our officialdom!

More Visitations

However the UFOs must be immune to exorcism, or have ignored the message, since the Cairns-Tully area continues to sport its UFO-active events. A further "nest" was discovered soon after on April 25 in a cane field close to Cairns (25 miles north of Tully). Flattened stems lay in an oval-shaped area 70ft. by 30ft. These were described by a horse-riding party as completely screened by standing cane.

A more recent close encounter with a UFO (October 1) was reported by Louie Maule, 35, a Tully district farmer. Near on 8.00 p.m. he was headed north driving home from South Johnstone, when he saw descending from the night sky, a large black object ringed with red lights. "I got a shock", Maule said. "It was *gigantic* and looked to be slowing up."

The headlights of a passing car momentarily obscured his vision, and he slowed to a stop. "When I looked again it was travelling towards South Johnstone at maybe 100 m.p.h."

Interviewed by Vince Mele, the motorist Louie Maule stated the UFO's altitude was about 500ft. It was circular in shape, and about 60ft. in diameter, as clearly outlined by the red lights around the perimeter. The red-ringed disc was last seen to bank and proceed towards the clouds at very high speed.

On the same evening, some 3 miles to the north, Vince Mele had set up his mobile detector on a hill site overlooking the surrounding area. Promptly at 8.00 p.m. his detector alarm sounded and it was two minutes before the alarm re-set itself automatically. After this, it was quiet for the rest of the evening.

Although it must be noted that Vince Mele did not himself see any lights, the October 1 incident now seems to provide the first good evidence for independent visual sighting correlated with triggering

of the detector by the ambient field of a UFO.[5]

A Continued Mystery

The Tully UFO photographs (presuming something *was* on the film) are by no means the first UFO shots to disappear from the Australian scene. A recapitulation made at the CAPIO Convention (Canberra, July 1968) produced the following list:

1. 11.00 a.m., August 23, 1953, of nine photographs taken at Port Moresby by T. P. Drury, Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation, the five best shots were "lost" by CAD, who had loaned them to the United States Air Force, Washington.
2. Daytime, Easter 1954, some 200 photographs, cine and stills, of an object pacing three young men in an Austin sedan, driving through the interior near the Western and South Australian border. "Borrowed" by the R.A.A.F. and never returned.
3. 11.00 a.m., July 7, 1961, 6in. by 3in. negative of the "Thing" observed by scores of North Queenslanders and photographed by R. T. Sheward of the Cairns Post. This negative was sent to Kodak of Melbourne by Mr. Stromlo scientists. This time the container did not arrive empty—according to Kodak, *it just did not arrive*.
4. 3.25 a.m., May 27, 1965, several photographs taken by an airline pilot (Ansett-ANA) of a UFO pacing an air liner in flight for 10 minutes over Bougainville Reef en route to Port Moresby. Film confiscated by the authorities.
5. Actual time unknown, March 4 of this year, Tully, North Queensland. Missing cine film.

We wonder where they all are?

NOTES

[1] *Queensland Again* by Judith Magee, FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, March/April 1966 (Vol. 12, No. 2).

[2] Clockwise swirl observed contrary to hypothetical ground effects from a helicopter landing. Rotor blades are driven with left-hand screw motion.

[3] A study of the graphs (1851 to 1961) contained in the work *Anatomy of a Phenomenon* by Jacques Vallée strongly suggests the possibility of peak UFO activity being related to maximum and minimum sunspot activity and/or Geo-magnetic activity. The latter could well be the significant factor, in view of the UFOs' well-known electro-magnetic effects.

[4] Film was Kodachrome II, ASA speed 25.

[5] No electric cables, geophysical prospecting, etc., are present in the area to act as source of magnetic field disturbances.

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NORTH AMERICAN REPORT ON RECENT CASES AND RESEARCH

There are unusual aspects of the UFO enigma which, needing doubly careful investigation, present a remarkable challenge to investigators. It would seem that these aspects were beyond the briefing of Dr. Edward U. Condon's Colorado University Project.

In this 72-page report, investigators and writers—some of them new to our pages—have been probing the North American scene for FSR. Contributors include . . .

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Personal column: see page 8

REPEAT PERFORMANCE

Anton Fitzgerald

A South African pilot tells of remarkable and almost identical UFO experiences in both Natal and Texas. His article, entitled *Unidentified Flying Object*, appeared in the South African aviation newsmagazine *Wings over Africa*.* This journal circulates throughout the African continent, and is published in Johannesburg. FLYING SAUCER REVIEW **is grateful to the Editor of *Wings over Africa* for his permission to reprint Mr. Fitzgerald's article.**

WE first saw it on one of those misty, calm mornings so characteristic of the Natal midlands in late June. Jock Marais, the farm manager, and I were walking down the hill towards the homestead.

There was a heavy dew and the grass was fairly long. I remember this particularly as I was wearing a pair of old boots that I normally kept in the Aero Commander for use on trips to the farm or to our cottage at the coast. They were very old boots and the right sole had started to split.

Linda had repeatedly suggested I hand them over to our garden boy in the Transvaal, but one gets so attached to comfortable shoes and clothes that one is always reluctant to part with them. That morning I was certainly reaping the doubtful reward of this attachment as the dew worked its way around my right ankle at every step.

A flock of guinea fowl that normally roosted in the bush between the house and the dam were as usual calling to one another, in that characteristic metallic manner they seem to reserve as a means of maintaining station when walking in single file through the scrub towards the nearby mealie land.

Suddenly they stopped calling and Jock and I both saw it at the same time.

From our position on the slope of the hill we could look down on the landing strip adjacent to the homestead with its large hangar which also did duty as a lucerne and maize store. Ndolwana, the Zulu tractor driver, had already pushed out the twin-engined aeroplane in which I had planned to leave for Durban and it stood ghostly white against the dull brown of the winter grass.

Eerie glow

But what had caught our attention in the misty dawn was an eerie reddish glow on the runway, about 300 yards from the house. We were not more than 200 yards away and walking downhill directly towards the phenomenon.

My first thought was that it could be a very large bubble of iridescent marsh gas about 100ft. in diameter, bright pink in the centre and fading gradually towards the circumference—like the so-called "sun dog" sometimes seen by those pilots who normally fly a great deal during the midnight-to-dawn period.

We slowed down involuntarily and as the light improved noticed that the flock of sheep bedded down in the runway paddock were all standing in two one-third circles on opposite sides of the glow and looking intently towards the centre. It is hard to describe but they were not facing radially.

From our elevated position the sheep reminded me of iron filings on a piece of paper around a magnet—a sort of orderly pattern but yet following no accepted geometrical form.

By this time we were only a stone's throw away and the pinkish glow had started to rise vertically into the air. There was no sound, no rush of air. With a sort of involuntary reaction, we both broke into a run towards the phenomenon, Jock exclaiming: "Just look at those sheep".

My eyes were following the rapid disappearance of the "bubble" into the mist above but, as we reached the point where the glow had been, I also looked at the sheep and noticed with amazement that they all appeared to be standing on tiptoe like ballet dancers with heads held unusually high just as if they were suspended in space with their hooves barely touching the grass. It was then that we both first experienced a peculiar feeling almost of weightlessness.

The saliva persisted in moving on to the roof of my mouth while the moisture that had penetrated into my right boot worked its way rapidly upwards around my calf at every step. All in all, to put it very mildly it was a most uncanny experience and, to cap it all, Ndolwana came running up to us, his wrinkled face a sort of ashen grey colour, and shouting excitedly in Zulu. He followed this by explaining breathlessly that at last he had seen for himself, in the flesh so to speak, the foundation of the ancient Zulu legend of the red sun that rises straight up into the sky after devouring some of the tribe's cattle.

Apart from his obvious excitement, this descendant of a Zulu headman accepted the incident without question, confirming, as we ascertained later, that such visitors from another world were known long before the days of the white man in Zululand.

* Distributed by Central News Agency Ltd., Johannesburg, S. Africa, the magazine is also obtainable on subscription at R3.60 (£2 6s. sterling) from P.O. Box 9665, Johannesburg.

Sheep missing

Nothing in the general vicinity seemed to have been disturbed except that one old sheep was missing (the animal was never found) and the rest of the flock gradually resumed their normal placid composure. The eerie weightless feeling had by this time also vanished and we strolled slowly over to the aeroplane, discussing the incident in puzzled tones.

In fact, I was still so deep in thought while doing the walk around preflight of the Aero Commander that I cut my forehead on the sharp edge of one of the main undercarriage doors.

The Commander's engines started easily as usual and I lined the aeroplane up on the runway about 300 yards from where we had seen the object. The engines took a few minutes to reach operating temperatures and I remember idly turning over in my mind the likelihood that V1 in the take off would probably come up about the time the "weightless" spot was reached.

Jock told me over the phone later in the day that he had never seen anything climb so fast. At one moment the aeroplane was running along the paddock runway and next it had disappeared from his view into low cloud. My own recollections are to say the least rather confused, as I had just started to rotate when it happened.

The aeroplane left the ground like a flash and we were IMC virtually instantly and within a couple of seconds out in the clear on top of the stratus. In a sort of daze I instinctively scanned the instrument panel, where everything except the altimeter and the VSI appeared to be behaving fairly normally. The vertical speed needle was, however, hard up against the maximum rate of climb stop, while the altimeter needle was spinning clockwise. There was strangely no feeling of the "G" force one would associate with such an incredibly rapid accelerating ascent and, in fact, I found myself sitting more lightly than usual in my seat.

Almost without realising it, I selected the gear up and noticed with alarm that the wheels retracted with an unusually loud thump. Just as we were passing through what appeared to my confused senses to be about 10,000ft. everything suddenly returned to normal and we were climbing at 1,000ft. per minute with my violently popping ears rapidly adjusting themselves.

I contacted Durban control, descended to our allotted flight level of 90 and reported the experience to them briefly, before flying the 20-minute leg to Virginia in a most contemplative and puzzled mood.

A year later in Texas

The next time I saw "it" was halfway across the world and almost exactly a year later—on June 15. I had spent the night at the Ramada Inn, located between the runways at Love Field, Dallas, in Texas. Jake Rugel met me in the entrance foyer well before first light.

We had planned a pre-dawn take-off so as to be at San Angelo just after sunrise in the MU2 turboprop that Jake was trying to persuade me to buy as a replacement for the Aero Commander. He was committed to flying another prospect from San Angelo to Tucson at 7.30 a.m.; hence the early start.

Jake, whose grandmother was a full-blooded Cherokee Indian, did all the flying, while I sat in the right-hand seat and filled in the blank spaces of the comprehensive performance questionnaire that I had prepared for evaluating various aircraft.

We were cruising at flight level 220 and were just about top-of-descent for San Angelo, when we both saw it at the same time. The glow of the rising sun was behind us. The flat country of West Texas partly covered with mist patches unfolded below. What looked like the vapour trail of a fast-climbing jet appeared slightly to the right of the MU2's nose. As it got closer Jake said: "That's not a jet trail; it's one of those large met. balloons with the pin colour coloured by the rising sun behind us."

As usual I had my camera with me and asked Jake to turn towards the balloon while I searched behind the seat for the camera with the automatic lens mechanism. The children back home would be interested in this, I thought, as I removed the lens cover, wondering whether there would be enough light for a good result with the colour film I had purchased back in Durban only two weeks previously.

Watch it climb

Suddenly, Jake let out a cry that could only have originated way back in some Cherokee wigwam and exclaimed, "Look at that goldarned thing climb." I ceased doing mental gymnastics with F values and shutter speeds, looked up and was almost instantly back on the farm near Greytown.

There was the same eerie pinkish glow, more intense in the centre of the circular object as it shot straight up into the sky and disappeared into the vague cirrostratus overcast, which itself was permeated with a reddish tint from the rising sun. All my senses were now alert and I knew what to expect as we flew towards where the object had been only a few seconds before. I asked Jake to pull the power back to flight idle and start descending.

He was still so dumbfounded that he complied automatically before saying: "Have you seen anything like that before" and then listened attentively but obviously disbelievingly while I hurriedly described my experience of the previous year. All this time we had been descending at about 3,000ft. per minute and had just reached flight level 100 when it happened.

The vertical speed needle moved rapidly from descent to against the maximum rate of climb stop, while the altimeter needle reversed direction and started spinning clockwise at an incredible rate. As before, in Natal, there was no G force and my camera, which had been lying on my lap, now felt as light as a feather to the touch. The whole thing lasted only a few seconds before we were descending once again (from flight level 250), with Jake too speechless even to call San Angelo tower.

Even after demonstrating to me a most impressive short landing using reverse thrust, Jake was still obviously not quite himself and was content merely to sit dazedly in a chair in the hangar office, waiting for the local farmer, who had apparently not yet arrived in his Baron from his farm strip about 70 miles away. He was on his third cup of coffee, and I had just finished describing in detail my experience on my Natal farm when he was called to the phone in the nearby Mooney factory office. He was back in a few minutes explaining

excitedly that by a peculiar coincidence his farmer prospect had been visited by the phenomenon and wanted us to fly over and have breakfast with him.

Steer missing

We climbed into the MU2 and in 20 minutes were being greeted on his strip by Ted Leslie, a typical Texas rancher, who like so many others has forsaken the horse for the aeroplane. He started to tell us what had delayed him but was amazed when I beat him to the draw by telling what had probably happened.

Everything was similar to the Natal incident except that instead of sheep it was "white face" Hereford steers that had stood in a sort of semi-circle in the night paddock, only half a mile from his homestead. There had been the same pinkish glow, the absence of sound, the peculiar weightless feeling and one of the older steers was missing.

Everybody on the ranch was astounded except one of his cowhands who was a Red Indian who calmly told of the legend of the sun that rises straight up. At this stage Jake interrupted and confirmed that his Cherokee grandmother had sometimes spoken with great conviction of this same legend when telling him Indian folklore, when he was only about 7 years old.

We reported the whole incident to "Project Blue Book" at Ohio Air Force Base, which is the special department of the U.S. Air Force dealing with unidentified flying objects. They will I assume sift the information received and try to find some common pattern to tie up with the numerous other reports they obviously receive.

In my two experiences there are numerous common denominators. In each case, the force of gravity is apparently reduced almost to equal the centrifugal force of the earth's rotation; one becomes not quite weightless but very nearly so. In addition, there must be some sort of hypnotic attraction which prevents certain animals from running away from a strange object. Remember, in each case an animal disappeared and was never found.

Jake and Leslie's Indian cowhand both were positive that the ancient folklore legend of the Indian tribes mentions that the "red sun" invariably appeared among the buffalo herds and the Indians believed that some of the buffalo were carried away. They gave as one of the reasons for the absence of the phenomena in modern times (since the arrival of the white man) the fact that the buffalo herds had now disappeared.

Comparatively undeveloped races at virtually opposite sides of the globe have quite obviously had experience of this nature a long time ago; otherwise, why the reference to the red sun in their folklore.

Such incidents as these two make one wonder whether the simple people of the past, their minds uncluttered with the materialistic claims, beliefs and aims of the modern machine world, may not have been more receptive to the so-called "supernatural".

Every time I lower the flaps on final at my farm strip I find myself deep in thought. The stranger of Galilee knew the answer and gave it to us 2,000 years ago, an answer that we with our retractable gears, constant speed units and autopilots seem to think is much too simple to be really worth believing.

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THE TIME CYCLE FACTOR

Problems of Distortion and Distention

John A. Keel

IN February 1968, a young man in Adelphi, Maryland[1] allegedly experienced a time distortion while aboard an unidentified flying object. According to his story, he first encountered a UFO around 1.00 a.m. on the morning of December 10, 1967, while driving outside of Washington, D.C. A normal-looking man dressed in coveralls approached him and conversed with him briefly, asking the simple, routine questions so often reported in such initial meetings. This man identified himself as "Vadig".

The young man, a psychology major in a Maryland university, worked evenings as a waiter in a Washington restaurant. He had not mentioned this to "Vadig". Nevertheless, Mr. "Vadig" appeared at the restaurant in early February, dressed this time in conventional clothing, and invited the student for a ride aboard his craft. The youth was taken by automobile—a 1955 Buick which looked and even smelled like new[2]—to an isolated farm area some 30 minutes outside of Washington.

A large, egg-shaped craft on tripod legs was waiting there. The young man was ushered aboard and sealed alone in a compartment containing a contour chair and a large "TV screen". He was taken on a trip which, by his reckoning, consumed from four to five hours. Then he was returned to the same spot and driven to his home. This drive also took about 30 minutes. When he entered his apartment and confronted his room-mates, he was amazed to discover that *little more than an hour* had actually passed from the time "Vadig" had first picked him up at the restaurant.

Ufologists have been hearing this kind of story for years, often dismissing them as being hallucinatory or the fiction of psychotics. Occult literature is also filled with many documented accounts of strange distortions of time and space. In this particular incident, the witness claimed he never lost consciousness and, although he was not wearing a watch, he was painfully aware of the passage of time because there was nothing for him to do while sealed in the compartment. During two lengthy interviews in March 1968, he was able to provide numerous significant details common to such stories but never published or publicised.[3]

Actually, the young man described four different meetings with "Vadig", and each time the "spaceman" ended the conversation with the phrase, "I'll see you in time".

Other contactees have told me of similar phrases. Traditionally, the first question the Ufonauts ask is: "What time is it?" or "What is your time cycle?" You will recall that "time" questions were asked in some of the alleged contacts of 1957, and in the Gary Wilcox case of 1964.[4]

One notable Ufonaut characteristic, as related by numerous contactees, is *their* apparent inability to understand and utilise our standard measurement of time. As such cases pile up in each succeeding "flap" it is becoming more and more obvious that a very special time factor exists, and in some instances the phenomenon seems to be able to manipulate both time and space—at least in so far as the involved witnesses are concerned. This could be the result of some hypnotic technique, of course, but it could also provide us with an important clue to the overall nature of the phenomenon.

The two most commonly reported time distortion effects (TDE) are:

1. Time compression as in the Adelphi, Md. case. The witness undergoes an experience of seemingly long duration but later discovers a comparatively short period of real time—or Earth time—has passed. Experiments have shown that seemingly long and involved dreams often occupy only a few seconds or a few minutes of the sleeper's real time. Therefore we must examine time compression experiences from a psychiatric approach as well as a physical approach.

2. Time lapses. Events in which the witness suffers partial or total amnesia and is unable to remember how he passed specific periods of time. Several cases have been reported to me in which the witnesses, who were usually in automobiles, saw an approaching object and then suffered a memory lapse although they had no awareness of losing consciousness or otherwise undergoing an unusual experience. Such witnesses complain that it took them two hours or more to drive distances of only a few miles. This type of experience also demands psychiatric examination.

Those who assume that all of these many witnesses are either insane or are liars, are obliged to explain how it is possible for so many widely separated people to report the same identical details in their "lies".

The liars and the lied to

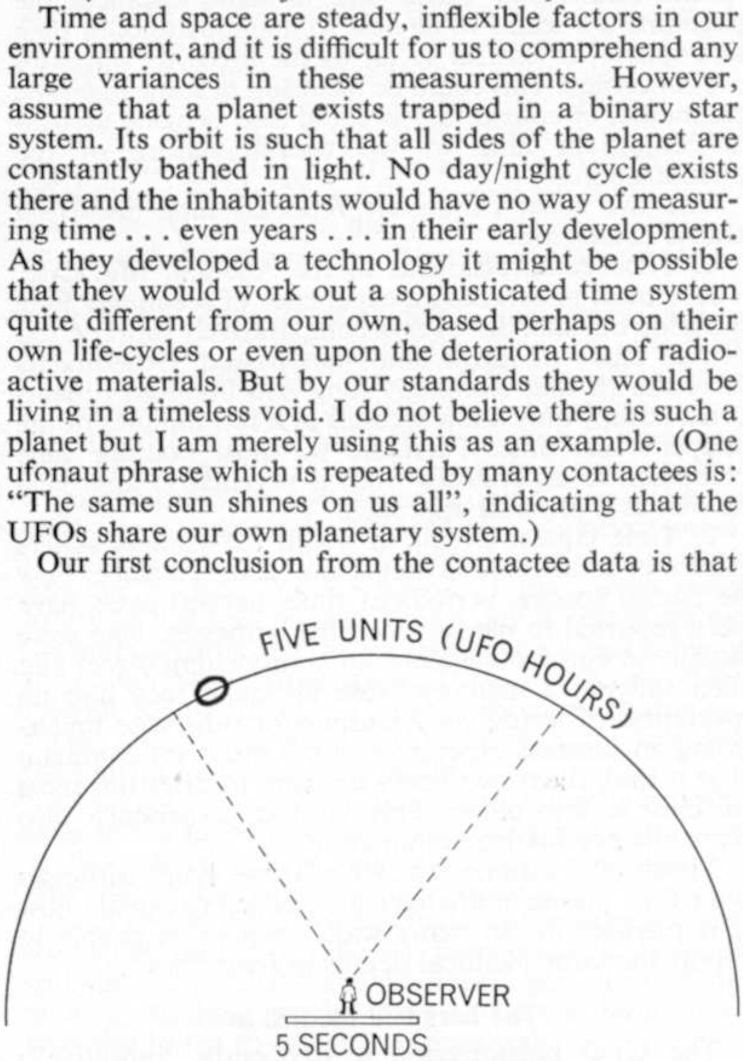
The UFO phenomenon is frequently "reflective"; that is, the observed manifestations seem to be deliberately tailored and adjusted to the individual beliefs and mental attitudes of the witnesses. Both the objects and their occupants appear to be able to adopt a multitude of forms and the contactees are usually given "information" which conforms to their own beliefs or

ability to understand. UFO researchers who concentrate on one particular aspect or theory often find themselves inundated with seemingly reliable reports which tend to substantiate that theory. My own extensive experiences with this "reflective" factor have led me to carry out several weird experiments which confirmed that a large part of the reporting data is engineered and deliberately false. The witnesses are not the perpetrators of these "hoaxes" but are merely the victims. The apparent purpose of all this false data is to create confusion and to divert us from the *real* phenomena. It has also served to convince the Air Force and the scientific establishment that the phenomenon is non-physical and therefore non-real.

Ufologists are thus confronted with the problem of sorting out the meaningful "hints" and the important facts from the mass of totally irrelevant diversionary material. The science fiction-like manifestations reported by the witnesses are far more important and deserve far more study than the often inane "messages" transmitted to them. The elusive and abstract time factor may be far more important to us than a detailed description of the object used in the Maryland incident.

Time and space are steady, inflexible factors in our environment, and it is difficult for us to comprehend any large variances in these measurements. However, assume that a planet exists trapped in a binary star system. Its orbit is such that all sides of the planet are constantly bathed in light. No day/night cycle exists there and the inhabitants would have no way of measuring time . . . even years . . . in their early development. As they developed a technology it might be possible that they would work out a sophisticated time system quite different from our own, based perhaps on their own life-cycles or even upon the deterioration of radioactive materials. But by our standards they would be living in a timeless void. I do not believe there is such a planet but I am merely using this as an example. (One ufonaut phrase which is repeated by many contactees is: "The same sun shines on us all", indicating that the UFOs share our own planetary system.)

Our first conclusion from the contactee data is that



TIME INVERSION THEORY

Although the ground observer views the object for only five seconds of his time, observers aboard the object may be viewing him for a much longer period in *their own time*. What appears to be an almost simultaneous event, the sudden appearance and disappearance of the object, may actually be a prolonged experience for the observers aboard the object.

the UFOs originate from a place outside of our time frame. They can enter our environment either at will or by accident, and certain human individuals can be transported somehow across this time bridge. This may involve certain physical changes which have always been defined in occult and contactee literature as "vibrationary" or "frequency" changes. We do not, as yet, have the scientific knowledge necessary for the construction of a workable hypothesis.

The negative universe

In recent years, assorted scientists have toyed with speculations about "anti-matter" and "negative universes". It has even been suggested a "negative universe" might be moving through time in a direction opposite to ours. Their future would be our past and vice versa.[5]

A number of unsophisticated, uneducated contactee claimants have astounded me in the past two years when they brought up and discussed this "reverse time cycle" in lucid and knowing terms. The extraterrestrial theory has dominated the American UFO scene, and very few UFO articles, books or lecturers have touched upon the old "time traveller" theme. It has very few adherents, if it has any at all. So it is doubly disconcerting that the contactees could have even considered the theory. You might say that they *had* to be told.

One West Virginia contactee, Woodrow Derenberger, talks knowledgeably about this backward time factor. This former preacher is not well-read and does not even have a basic knowledge of the moon and solar system. On Wednesday, November 2, 1966, he allegedly encountered a UFO on a highway outside of Parkersburg, W. Virginia, and conversed with a man who identified himself as "Indrid Cold". Mr. "Cold" reportedly visited with Derenberger many times after that, and later took him for trips to his planet, "Lanulos". Derenberger's initial "contact" received national press attention but his story of the follow-up developments has not been published or circulated. I have interviewed him at great length many times, both in West Virginia and in New York. The young man in Adelphi, Maryland, produced details identical to those in Derenberger's still-unpublished story.

"They're time travellers," Derenberger has explained. "One reason they can't stay here too long at a time is because they get younger instead of older . . . if they stayed here too long I think they'd go back in years and possibly forget how to manipulate their craft."[5]

It's easy for us to scoff at such outlandish statements, but we should consider the possibility that people like Woodrow Derenberger may only be passing along their own interpretations of complex information, and that on some occasions the ufonauts may have tried to communicate valid information by simplifying it in terms which would make some kind of sense to the contactees. You can't really discuss the Einstein theory with an ex-preacher in West Virginia. Derenberger had, he claims, suffered peculiar distortions of time and space during his UFO experiences and he had, reasonably enough, asked for some sort of explanation. He was purportedly told in simplified terms that *their* time stream was different from ours and was somehow running contrary to our own time cycle.

Nearly every contactee is given a set of prophecies or

predictions concerned not only with his or her immediate interests and future but with national affairs as well. Many of these predictions are very precise, pinpointing time, place, and so on, with incredible accuracy. I have collected many such predictions and have been impressed with their *proven* validity. Contactees told me, far in advance of the events, of the collapse of the bridge at Point Pleasant, W. Virginia, of the murders of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, and of innumerable ship and aircraft disasters and major earthquakes. A small percentage of these predictions missed because the time coordinates were off. Collecting, documenting and validating such predictions can lead to the development of an important body of evidence.[7]

These predictions also prove something else: that the ufonauts have an intimate knowledge of our future. They may attempt to explain this strange talent to the contactees by claiming that they come from our future and are headed into our past. We cannot determine the validity of this claim without extensive study and research. Until such studies can be made, we must consider the claims a definite possibility.

It is far more likely that *they* originate outside of our time frame, as I have said. It is also likely that the entities are *not* individuals with separate intelligences and free wills, but are actually cells in a larger whole, controlled by a computer-like intelligence[8] which manipulates them like puppets. Thus *they* do not actually know who they are or what they are or even where they came from. Like machines, they have only two states—turned on and turned off.

When you review *all* of the data instead of just those parts which conform to your own theories it becomes obvious that a careful plan is being followed by the entire phenomenon and that it is closely patterned after the same techniques of psychological warfare which we ourselves employ.

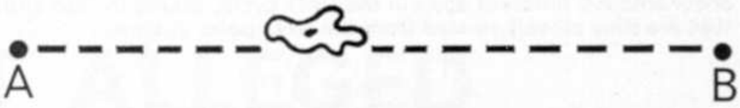
Again, we must stress that the phenomenon is *reflective* and that a large part of it is a total hoax being foisted upon us.

The distention of time

This magazine simply does not have enough pages for me to even outline all of the cases and experiences which have led me to these far-out conclusions. The evidence does exist. It has been ignored for too long. There is a great mass of historical documentation going back several centuries, all of it substantiating these conclusions.

Let us assume that I am correct and that the UFOs come from outside our time frame and *from outside the environment of the known universe*. Let us also assume that they are the manifestations of an intelligence which is able to freely manipulate the energies which compose atomic structure.[9] Perhaps this intelligence can also manipulate time and space. Both are merely measurements conceived by man within the limitations of his own environmental frame of reference. They are not absolutes.

A simple analogy is now in order: visualise a teen-aged boy with a microscope. He is studying a tiny microbe with a total life-span of 65 seconds. He takes a fine needle and pokes it into the liquid environment of the microbe. Supposing that the microbe has some sort



RELATIVITY

It takes the microbe 20 seconds — or one third of its life span to travel from point A to point B. To the observer peering through the microscope this is an almost instantaneous event. To the microbes the same event consumes a considerable amount of time.

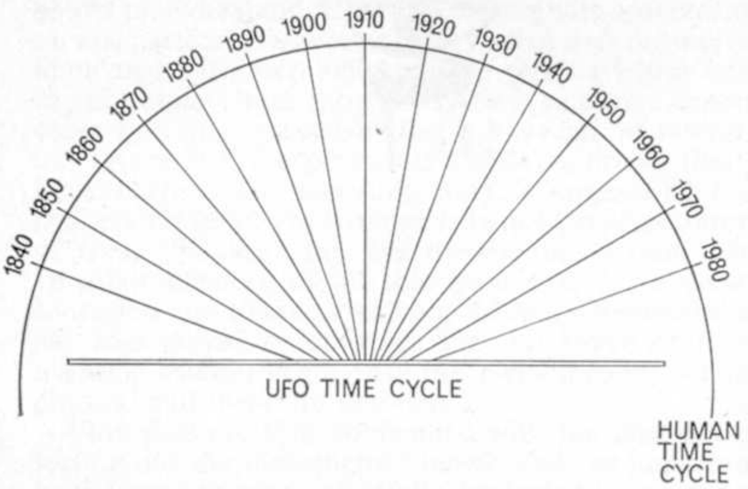
of visual or sensory apparatus, the point of the needle would suddenly appear enigmatically before the specimen. A completely foreign object beyond the microbe's frame of reference. The bewildered microbe swims around it, sits down and writes a microbe report on the inexplicable object which he saw. When the boy withdraws the needle, the "object" disappears in front of the microbe because it is no longer a part of his environment . . . or his time cycle.

Our microbe lives out his full 65 seconds. Five minutes later the boy—by his clock—reinserts the needle in the same slide. Now many generations of microbes have passed. A new microbe glimpses this wonder and hurries to the dusty microbe library and uncovers the old report. Strange foreign objects which appeared and disappeared were seen in ancient times, the microbe learns. To the boy, the two events spanned a mere five minutes. To the microbes, many generations had passed. By our time cycle the two events were almost simultaneous.

Switch things around a bit. Now *we* are the microbes. Could it be possible that all UFO events are interrelated and although they may be widely separated according to our time cycle they might really be almost simultaneous events to the ufonauts?

The theory of simultaneous events

In other articles I have noted that UFO events tend to recur year after year and century after century in the same locales. We have made the mistake of isolating and studying the individual events and have not made any effort to correlate those events. We have tried to fit these events into our own environmental framework. It has been noted, for example, that some UFO flaps occur during those months when Mars is closest to the earth. Many ufologists regard this as "proof" that the



Compression of time: The UFO time cycle is hypothetically condensed and simultaneously events in the human time cycle occur within a different span in the UFO cycle. Events in 1890 and 1930 are thus closely related from the UFO point of view.

UFOs come from Mars. Actually, this only proves that certain periods in our time cycle coincide with specific periods of activity in the UFO time cycle.

The flap of 1896 began in November of that year. The flap of 1897 peaked in April. The New England flap of 1909 began and peaked in December. The Scandinavian flap of 1934 began in December and peaked in January. The flap of 1954 in France took place in September/October. The flap of 1957 occurred in early November. In more recent years, December has continued to be a big month for UFOs, but so have January, March/April, July, and September/October.

One of the patterns in the contactee phenomenon in the United States is the *fact* that most of the initial contacts of the past three years have all taken place on Wednesdays. This does not necessarily mean that the ufonauts are using our calendar but rather that our Wednesdays coincide with something in their own time cycle.

If we can break through the barriers of our own consciousness of our environmental limitations we might be able to unscramble *their* time cycle by examining all the reports of the past 100 years, particularly in those areas which I term "windows" . . . areas where reports consistently recur.

In order to summarise some of my own findings and research let me set up a hypothetical case based upon those findings. Assume that there is a little town called Flat Rock, Nebraska. Before the white settlers arrived the local Indian tribes were very conscious of aerial phenomena. They had many old legends about the objects and "people" who came from the sky. A nearby hill was regarded as "sacred" and "evil" because these sky people appeared there periodically. The Indians even established certain rites and dances to appease these "Gods" and the hill was "off limits" to all Indians for many generations. Then the white man arrived and drove the Indians out. The town of Flat Rock was founded. Some of the settlers built their homes on that "sacred hill". Eventually those homes were haunted with poltergeists and other strange phenomena. So the settlers named the place "Misery Mountain". Over the years, many strange flying lights were reported around Misery Mountain. People living there went mad, committed murder or suicide. Some even disappeared mysteriously. Perhaps there was only one such event in each generation . . . not enough to cultivate anything more than a local legend. Eventually the houses there were abandoned and the hill was deserted. Some of the houses burned to the ground mysteriously. Now and then a dog would begin to bark hysterically and run up the hill, never to be seen again.

There are hundreds of "Misery Mountains" in the United States. There are whole islands which have been abandoned because something foreboding turns up periodically.

When the public finally became aware of "flying saucers" in 1947, the folks in Flat Rock, Nebraska just shrugged. They'd been seeing the things for years. The Flat Rock Gazette began to carry reports. Every year several people reported seeing something strange, always in the vicinity of Misery Mountain.

If we could dig out every single UFO report from Flat Rock in the past 20 years, and if we could scour all the Indian legends and other historical documentation, we could then assemble a comprehensive study of the events in that "window" and by comparing many such studies from many such areas we might be able to untangle the time cycle involved. We might even be able to construct a "UFO calendar". Those UFO events which seem to be widely separated by our time cycle might actually be simultaneous events when organised to a more abstract cycle.

All of this is based on the assumption that the UFOs are from another time cycle vastly different from our own, and that they enter and leave not only our environment but our universe just as the boy's needle entered and departed the microbe's miniature world. I don't mean to imply that some giant is poking needles at us. The microbe's world was a tiny part of the boy's world, although the microbe didn't know it. The microbe was not only unaware of the boy's existence, but it could not have possibly comprehended his existence.

Our first problem is to collect sufficient data . . . particularly historical data . . . so that we may test and examine the information now coming through in the contactee material. It may be true that all human events occur simultaneously when viewed by a greater intelligence. The boy peering through the microscope can plainly see an obstacle looming before the swimming microbe and can therefore "predict" the microbe's future 10 seconds—or a sixth of its lifespan—before it is even aware of the obstacle.

Instead of dismissing all contactee reports as "crackpot material" we should be examining and sifting these reports for clues and keys. There is no clinical precedent for the contactee phenomenon in the science of psychiatry. There is no medical explanation possible. This may be because not enough contactees have been examined by experts, but Woodrow Derenberger and others have been given thorough psychiatric tests and passed them.

At present we have no frame of reference for these events. Only those of us who have had some direct experience with the phenomenon can really understand it at all. A long and tedious road lies ahead. Extensive research is essential and it must be organised and

systematic. I am confident that all the answers already exist buried within the available material but we must ferret them out, digest them, and reduce them to some tangible form. A reflective phenomenon cannot be dealt with in the same way that our military intelligence teams determined the nature and origin of the German rockets of World War II.

If it is reflective, then we may be able to learn to exercise some control over it. There is the very chilling possibility that someone on this planet has already learned to do so.

NOTES

[1] Name withheld. A full report on this case will be published at a later date.

[2] Old cars that look like new keep turning up in my investigations. See FSR, July/August 1968, *West Virginia's Enigmatic "Bird"*.

References to these "details" are not meant to tease the reader. A great deal of explanation is necessary for each of these details, and it may be unwise to publish some of them since they provide one method for testing and comparing contact claims. Some of these details are so incredible that no one could accidentally make them up.

[4] Example: Playa del Rey, California, November 6, 1957. See FSR first special issue THE HUMANOIDS, pages 56-57. Also the Gary Wilcox case of April 24, 1964, Newark Valley, N.Y.

[5] Alluded to, for example, by Charles Bowen in *Few and Far Between* in FSR special issue No. 1, THE HUMANOIDS, October 1966. Mr. Bowen told how physicist Dr. Stannard, of University College, London, writing in the scientific journal *Nature*, had postulated the existence of such a parallel universe with time running in the reverse direction.

[6] Dell's *Flying Saucers—UFO Reports*, No. 3, October 1967, page 23.

[7] This task is now under way in the United States. See the story of the Glendale, California, contact claim, for further discussion of the "prophecy factor"—FSR special issue No. 2, BEYOND CONDON. . . .

[8] See *The Problem of Non-Contact* by Aimé Michel in FSR's THE HUMANOIDS, page 67.

[9] See *Is the EM Effect a Myth?* by John A. Keel, FSR for November/December 1968.

MUSHROOMS AT ALLEGED UFO LANDING SITES

Strange phenomena reported from Argentina

John Livingstone-Learmonth

Our contributor is an English student travelling in South America before returning to enter University in October this year. (He was in S. America with the Millington-Drake Expedition)

AT the end of November, I was travelling in the south of the province of Buenos Aires and was staying three days in the town of Tandil (pop. c. 80,000) before moving on south to the town of Necochea. On my second day—November 27—I came across this article in the local paper *El Eco de Tandil*. My Spanish is fairly weak, but I will try to give you the gist of the article.

Some enormous fungi had appeared on a lonely farm some 10 kilometres from Tandil during the night of November 25-26. They were visible next to a scorched circle of ground and were first seen by Juan Tami, one of the staff, on the morning of November 26.

The appearance of the mushrooms, within a circle of 7 or 8 metres, was sudden and prolific. There were many of them (I found out that there were 14 altogether), the largest being the size of a football. The grass inside the circle seemed to be singed, or at least with less humidity than the grass outside.

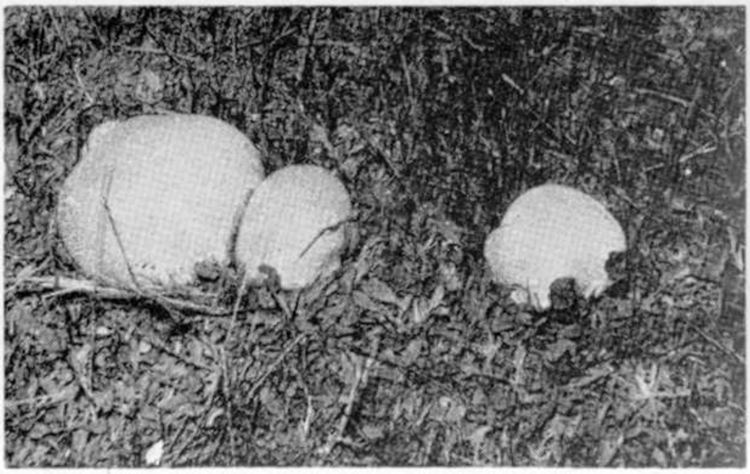
Inside the circle, a cow bone about 50 cm. long and still fresh, showed signs of having been burnt, as did a branch of a tree. . . . Many attribute the rare phenomenon to the presence of an unidentified object.

Don Juan Tami, who looks after the Beritaco farm, expressed his surprise about the appearance not only of the mushrooms but also of the area with visible scorch marks. He said that in almost 15 years on the farm, he has never seen a single mushroom, and that the area should undergo such an alarming change in the space of a few hours was amazing. . . . His wife and two daughters confirmed that on rising yesterday they found the mushrooms about 20 metres away from the lonely house.

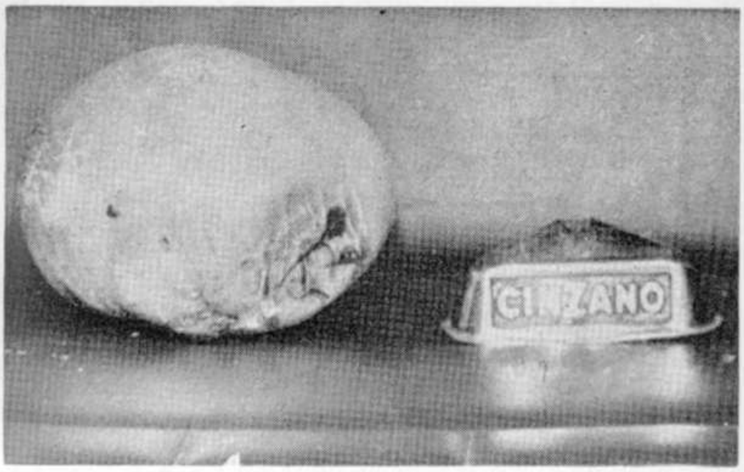
The case of the mushrooms could be attributed to natural causes, and this has already been the subject of scientific study after similar occurrences in Rosario and Necochea. (Tandil lies about 37.3S., 59.2W.) But what is really unusual for the local dwellers is the burnt cow bone and the branch, the stem of which showed obvious signs of having been in contact with the fire.

Now from the *Eco* of the following day: "The characteristics of the area are as follows: (a) there is an outline in the grass, of ovoid shape, whose larger furrow is of some 10 metres. In this outline the grass does not grow, as if the earth had been scorched. Around the mentioned outline, the mushrooms have grown and nothing of a similar dimension has ever been seen by the farm's inhabitants; (b) the mushrooms "sweat" when placed in the sun; (c) the partly-burnt cow bone and the branch lay roughly in the centre of the oval; (d) the mushrooms were continuing to grow, even in a few hours.

Some neighbours declared that they had seen some strange lights in previous nights without being able to define their nature or origin.



Tandil mushrooms on location



Tandil mushroom and ashtray

The Tami family had seen no unusual phenomena.

I was not able to glean much more information, as I myself was busy that day, but I visited the local newspaper and received the two photographs; they were not able to tell me much more than what I have already said. I saw one of the mushrooms that the newspaper had in its office window—I think it is the one that is beside the ashtray in the photograph—and it was a creamy sort of colour, with yellowish area around the bottom; it was also quite solid as far as I can remember. The weather was fine while I was in Tandil, and the night when these mushrooms appeared was warm and dry.

I was lucky enough to be continuing on to Necochea anyway, and when I was there I again visited the local newspaper, but as the mushrooms there had appeared two weeks before, they didn't tell me very much. All I discovered was that they were found near the flying club aerodrome, in the shape of a semi-circle (as the third photo shows) and that there was also this strange burnt-out area of grass within the circle of the mushrooms. These mushrooms had been taken off to the University at La Plata—down the coast from Buenos Aires—for examination.

The latest discovery of the mushrooms was made by a civilian air pilot, who, as he was landing his light aircraft on a runway at the flying club, noticed an enormous whitish circle nearby.

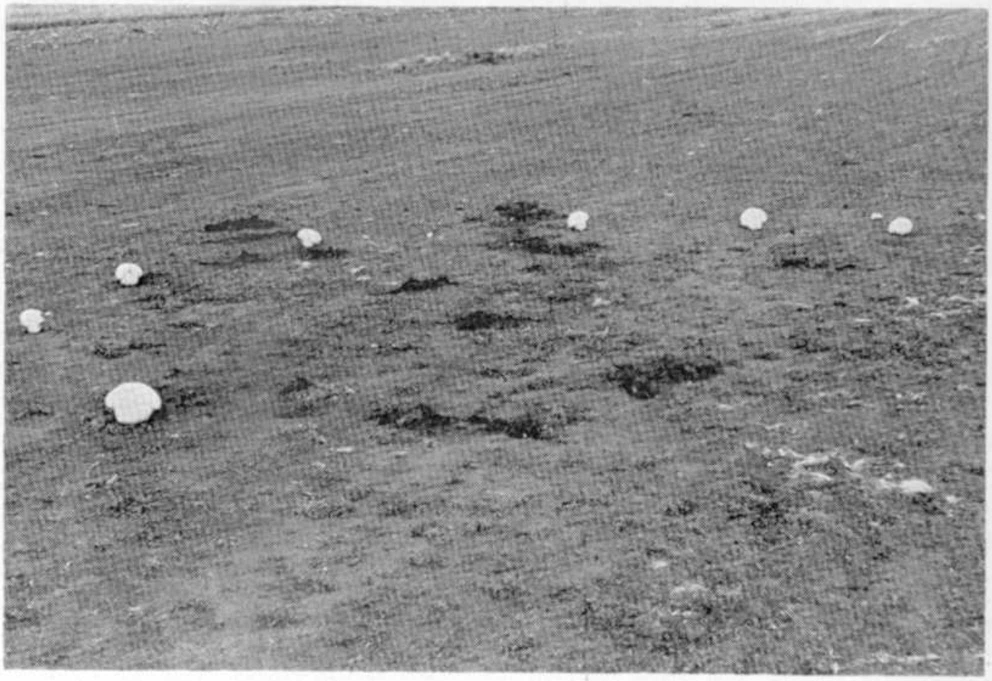
That is all I am able to tell you: admittedly I am probably not viewing the matter with an open mind, on account of my interest in UFOs, but these enormous mushrooms seem to be a curious phenomena that have appeared in three different places within a short space of time. The burnt or scorched areas and the shape of a semi-circle in Necochea are also interesting and unusual. In Tandil, the mushrooms were in no special formation, while I am afraid I know nothing about those in the Rosario case.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Our friend Antonio Ribera sent us a Spanish newspaper account of the Necochea incident. Necochea lies on the coast half-way between Buenos Aires and Mar del Plata. The account reads:

"A gardener who was called to look at the phenomenon was so astonished that he went off to get various members of the local Commission for the Investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects who—with a number of military men—returned with him to the spot.

"It is understood that they found the soil totally burnt over an area 6 metres in diameter. Within this circular area there were eight mushrooms, some of them as much as 81 cms. (32 inches) wide and 15 cms. high.



Necochea runway and grotesque "fairy ring"

CONDON v. SAUNDERS

The End of an Era

Donald B. Hanlon

WITH the almost simultaneous appearance of the Condon Committee Report and Saunders and Harkins *UFOs? Yes!* the American public is faced with a rather unique situation. The Condon Committee Report represents some $500,000 of their tax money, spent by their government, to investigate their complaints and inquiries regarding the UFO Phenomenon. Dr. David R. Saunders, formerly a key member of that Committee, now presents them with his documented contention that their money was not spent fairly or wisely. In short, a "trick" may have occurred at their expense.

If ever there were two documents written to complement, yet contradict each other, it would certainly be these two. Furthermore, each is essential to the objective comprehension of the other.

The initial appearance of the 965-page Condon Report in paperback form (*Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects*, Bantam Books, 1969) assures it a rapid and widespread circulation. A series of news releases in conjunction with the publication indicates that the authors of the Report were aiming at a thorough public absorption of the material at the fastest possible rate.

Reporters who had made a superficial examination of the report, were quick to rush into print with items expressing relief that the whole UFO business had been explained away. However those news analysts who had examined the entire Report, and had gotten past the "UFO's are dead" attitude, found it to be "remarkably open-minded" and felt that it leaves "just enough for firm believers to grab on to".[1] Aimé Michel's thoughts on this matter have turned out to be painfully accurate.[2]

It is to be expected that the Air Force or some other official agency will be most interested in the acceptability of the Report when determining what the next step will be. Most probably they will contract with a public opinion survey group, as the Condon Committee did, towards this end. This procedure would be quite logical and I suggest that it would be even more interesting to compare the results of such a survey with one taken after the next well-publicised "flap".

On Governmental Involvement

An inevitable question is whether or not the Report was influenced by some governmental agency involved in possible suppression or distortion of UFO data.

The Lorenzens have dealt quite adequately with this topic in two of their recent books.[3] They have postulated that if their theories are correct, there would be a governmental agent "on or near the committee, quietly monitoring its activities and preparing to subvert the final report for intelligence purposes if it seems advisable."[4]

Personally, I can find no valid reason for objecting to possible CIA involvement in the UFO Phenomenon. It would have every right to be involved, and *may even* have a right, from their viewpoint of national security, to attempt to exert a clandestine influence on public opinion. The craft of intelligence is an extremely complex one, especially when it is concerned with the welfare of the most powerful nation on Earth. All manner of justifications can be found for seemingly disreputable actions.

Once this involvement is accepted as probable it is quite irrelevant whether or not this agency chooses to inform the public, or to exert influences in this area. With or without this involvement, the true perspective of the Phenomenon can be discerned by the diligent researcher.

Case Studies

Over 200 pages of the Report are devoted to fairly comprehensive accounts of the field investigations conducted during the 2-year period. This is the most impressive part of the study where it will be seen that, despite recommendations to the contrary in Condon's summary of the Report, the advisability, indeed the need, for further investigation into the Phenomenon would be quite clearly indicated to any scientist.

Of the 59 case studies discussed, only half are given a natural explanation, and about nine are listed as unidentified. In many instances the explanation had to be "stretched" to fit the case, and in others it seems as if the Committee had indeed found the natural cause for the sighting.

I was most anxious to see how the Committee handled a particular landing report which occurred in December of 1967, and which I consider to be the most significant landing report in America that year. This case (No. 42 in the Condon Report) has been discussed in FSR[5] and elsewhere[6] and has intrigued me because of the witness's standing, a state trooper and ex-Marine, and because of its distinct similarity with other recent landing reports; in particular the landing at Americana, Brazil, less than a month before, which was also witnessed by a police officer.[7]

Members of the Condon Committee checked the site where the witness claimed to have observed the object hovering 8 to 10ft. off the ground for traces of radioactivity and could find none. They also claimed that they could find no evidence that an unusual object had hovered there.

I must confess ignorance as to what physical evidence, aside from radioactivity which would have been inconclusive at best, *could* have been left by a hovering object. Perhaps this is the reason why such objects are often reported to hover rather than touch down.

The case study of this report also fails to mention the extremely interesting details which were revealed when the witness was brought to Colorado and hypnotised before Condon and others by psychologist, and con-

sultant to APRO, Dr. Leo Sprinkle. These details make the report a quite extraordinary "contact". However the investigators chose to view the additional material in a different context.

The staff reportedly ended up with no confidence that the reported experience was physically real and the authenticity of the case remained unestablished in their eyes. This is a quite serious indictment of the trooper's ability to carry out his law enforcement duties and I believe it was unwarranted.

A trooper, even an ex-Marine, alone in a tiny rural town at 2.30 in the morning after having worked long hours could conceivably be subject to an hallucination. However when four other separate witnesses also report seeing an unusual object that night in that town, it becomes even more probable that the trooper did encounter a UFO. The Condon investigators apparently chose to ignore these separate reports as they preferred a subjective interpretation.

It is in significant cases such as this that the true incompetence of the Condon Committee is exposed. It also illustrates the limitations of a scientific investigation of a particular incident without recourse to correlative background data. This impression is further confirmed by the number of cases in which the Committee could suggest only a plausible explanation.

The study of the Phenomenon (especially in reports of landings) is to a certain degree interdisciplinary. This fact seems to have been realised only by those individual researchers such as Michel and Vallée who have examined a much wider spectrum of reports over the years than the Condon Committee's extremely limited perspective of a 2-year, comparatively weak, period.

Vallée's prediction

In one sense the Phenomenon itself contributed to these limitations, as Dr. Jacques Vallée predicted when addressing the Committee members early in the study. According to Saunders[8] ". . . Vallée predicted that our investigation was likely to fail. He explained that by the time a wave of sightings has generated enough 'heat' to result in an investigation, the wave is ending. He pointed out that the life of our contract would span a period between sighting flaps because the crest of the current wave would already have passed."

Also interesting to note is that many of Vallée's suggestions were taken up by the Committee in its early stage (Condon was apparently impressed by Vallée) and serious consideration was given to inviting him to join the study. It was fortunate that his public position on UFOs prevented this, as he most certainly would have been "the loser" since the dice were loaded.

Perhaps the only way to read the Condon Committee Report is as a symposium of articles by individuals each with slightly varying viewpoints and perspectives. Parts of Condon's summation of the Report do not completely match the material in the other sections. There are "loopholes" in virtually every chapter.

Saunders reports[9] that members of the Committee had decided, at an early date, that to give credence and attempt to define the ETI (Extraterrestrial Intelligence) hypothesis would most likely result in an inconclusive finding since they would not be able to accurately determine which aspects of the Phenomenon would lend support to this hypothesis.

Saunders also reports[10] that if the Committee ever did succeed in substantiating ETI Condon declared that he would take all such evidence and present it either to the President or the Air Force and let them decide what to do with it. In such a case the Committee's public commitment would not have been honoured.

In a recent interview Dr. J. Allen Hynek commented on other discrepancies in the Report,[11] "It is the judgment of Dr. Condon that the facts do not merit further investigation. The other contributors to the Report do not seem to bear out this judgment, and there is considerable hinting between the lines that there is something of great interest here."

Attitudes and Recommendations

That some, perhaps most, of the members of the Committee were prejudiced toward a negative viewpoint is almost unquestionable, and, in my opinion, inevitable in any scientific body when dealing with a subject that has been so sensationalised.

If one can accept the basic sincerity of the study, then the Committee's great handicap, despite its scientific methodology, was its unfamiliarity with the intricacies of the subject. An ideal scientific investigative committee would be made up of individuals like Hynek, Vallée, McDonald (indeed even certain members of the Condon Committee now that they have acquired their groundwork) who have become thoroughly familiar with all aspects of the Phenomenon and know what to look for. Unfortunately here also is where preconceived notions might tend to enter the picture. However, there are methods of relegating the *personal factor* (the application of electronic computers being one method) to a point where it could not appreciably affect the outcome of the study.

One of the most negative and weakest contributions to the Report, aside from Dr. Condon's, is undoubtedly the chapter on "UFOs in History" (section V, cap. 1) which consists of a comparatively vulgar piece of journalism. It is, for the most part, a rehash of data from various sources, the author admitting that he was unable to uncover any independent material.

Saunders reports[12] that the author of this chapter was a long-time personal acquaintance of the project co-ordinator Robert Low, who hired him in one of his efforts to "build the record". This author, who refers to himself as a "trivialist", received $3,200, an outrageous sum for this bit of "trivia".

Spare the children

In what is sure to be one of the most controversial recommendations of the Report, it advises, quite strongly, that teachers refrain from giving their students credit for school work based on their reading UFO books and magazine articles,[13] and that the teachers who find students who express deep interest in the subject should attempt to channel their attention to more orthodox matters.

At first, I was quite shocked to discover how far the Committee had gone with this recommendation. They seemed to have clearly overstepped their bounds. However, on second reading, I could begin to comprehend

the Committee's rationalisation in this gesture. The Committee felt that the children would be educationally harmed by absorbing unsound and erroneous material on UFOs currently available in sensationalised presentations. There has been a virtual inundation of this type of literature on American news-stands since 1966. Paperback and pulp productions by overnight experts were the rule, not the exception. This readily available and cheaply produced material would naturally find an eager audience in children who had become interested in the subject.

Dr. Hynek has voiced his opinion of this recommendation "I don't believe that schoolchildren would be quite able to detect the 'signal' from the 'noise' in this subject. The investigation of a UFO report, properly carried out, would be a good lesson in scientific method. I would have to agree with the Condon Committee unless the study involved a critical investigation of an actual occurrence."[11]

* * * * *

Saunders traces the history of Edward Uhler Condon's career from newspaper reporter in 1918 to Director of Colorado's Scientific Advisory Commission before tackling the subject of UFOs. We learn that considerable tension exists between Condon and newly-elected President Nixon stemming from the hearings of the House Un-American Activities Committee (1947-54) in which Condon was maligned and persecuted.

Condon's emotional explosions when he learned of the release of the now-famous "trick" memo, written by Low, are vividly described by Saunders. In John Fuller's introduction to the Saunders book he notes that neither Condon nor Low had any comments when he gave them the opportunity to present their side of the matter before he published his exposé in the May 14, 1968, issue of *Look* magazine. The memo and the subsequent firings are merely glossed over by both Walter Sullivan and Condon in the Report itself,[14] and we seem to have a much clearer picture of the entire affair from Saunders' book without being unduly critical of Condon.

Saunders devotes a chapter to describing those cases in which Condon took a personal interest. They are without exception the most obvious hoaxes and delusions examined by the Committee.

This shows Condon in a very bad light. From this summary it seems as if Condon had never grasped, or possibly never even attempted to grasp, the magnitude of the Phenomenon. Since Condon wielded such a heavy hand in the direction of the project (he was quoted in the *New York Times* as saying "I raise a little hell when I run things") the whole investigation might have been titled "Condon's Folly" had it not been for the more serious efforts by some of its members.

One receives the distinct impression that Condon may not have been quite "up to" the task of heading the high priority investigation (he devoted only half of his time to the study). One might wonder if the time has come when the good doctor is giving serious consideration to ending his colourful professional career.

The End of an Era

The Condon Committee Report will take its place alongside the Warren Commission Report on the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy as an official document that attempted to dispel (justly or unjustly) the fears and probing questions in the public's mind. As such, it will probably trigger many more counter-documentaries just as the Warren Report has.

It is my considered belief, after examining the Condon Report quite thoroughly, that "history" will not treat it, *as a whole*, too harshly. I believe that when it is placed in its proper perspective as the *first* "official" attempt at scientifically evaluating the UFO Phenomenon, and when consideration is given to the pressures, both social and political, which were brought to bear on the study, it will become the *last* such "investigation". It will also signal the end of an era.

The Report is a "gold mine" of controversy. Condon himself has apparently realised this and has written a significant passage declaring that the Committee's conclusion that the study of UFOs has not enhanced scientific knowledge will not be uncritically accepted by scientists. He also states that if these scientists should come forward with ideas for a more accurate study, it will be because they have learned from the Committee's mistakes. This view may be open to question.

Saunders and Harkins' book is a fascinating in-depth critique that gives us a personal insight into the mechanics of the investigation.

I was most intrigued with Dr. Saunders' discussion of orthoteny, a study of which he conducted while still a member of the Committee. We should certainly hear more from Dr. Saunders and others like him.

NOTES

1 *UFOs: They are not dead yet*, D. Zochert, "Chicago Daily News", January 28, 1969.
2 *While we wait*, Editorial, FSR, November/December 1968.
3 *Flying Saucer Occupants* by Jim and Coral Lorenzen, 1967.
4 *UFOs Over the Americas*, page 197.
5 FSR, July/August 1968, page 18.
6 *APRO Reporter* (Gribble), April 1968.
7 *APRO Bulletin* (Lorenzens), September/October 1968.
8 "*UFOs? Yes!*" Saunders and Harkins, page 61.
9 *ibid.*, page 77.
10 *ibid.*, pages 140-141.
11 Interview with Dr. J. Allen Hynek over WCFL radio, January 26, 1969.
12 "*UFOs? Yes!*" page 131.
13 *Scientific Study of UFOs*, pages 5-6.
14 *ibid.*, xi and 541.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND BOOKS ON UFOs

There must be scores of thousands of people in this country who haven't an inkling that good, serious books on UFOs have been written. You and your friends can help enlighten them by asking the librarian to obtain any of the best titles that are missing from the shelves, or card indexes. How about the following, for a start . . .?

Anatomy of a Phenomenon, Jacques Vallée *(Neville Spearman Ltd.)*
Challenge to Science, Jacques and Janine Vallée *(Spearman)*
Unidentified Flying Objects, Robert Chapman *(Arthur Barker Ltd.)*
The Flying Saucer Story, Brinsley le Poer Trench *(Spearman)*

And, as real surprises for them, when published later this year . . .

The Humanoids. Edited Charles Bowen *(revised and enlarged, to be published by Neville Spearman Ltd.)*
Uninvited Visitors, Ivan T. Sanderson *(Neville Spearman Ltd.)*

Get down to that library, ask, keep asking, and get your friends to ask too

GHOST-BOMBS OVER SWEDEN

Part II

Biörn Överbye

THE aerial visitations which during July 1946 had caused much speculation in Sweden and other Scandinavian countries—and indeed in the rest of the world, where there were some who for want of a better description called them *Ghost Rockets*—continued through into August. If the Swedish Army had discovered anything during the hastily-arranged investigation, they weren't telling, so speculation remained rife.

August 2; Norrland:

"Two cigar-shaped objects were seen exploding in the sky. The following day, two similar objects were also seen exploding." (*Gøteborg Handel & Sjøfarts Tidning*.)

August 3; somewhere in Sweden:

"The Army has found something of celestial origin. The object found was rather like a barrel to which a 150ft. long wire, probably of copper, was fastened. The whole thing was approximately half a pound in weight. There was no doubt of the fact that the object had come from above." (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

Place of observation not specified:

"An object that resembled a flashlight was seen by several people, passing at very high altitude. While they watched it, the thing started to increase in brightness, altering its direction by 90 degrees. The sky was absolutely clear." (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

August 5; Skåne:

"A mysterious space craft was observed at about 11.00 p.m. on Sunday. The object was circular and glittered in the sun like silver. It moved with high speed, but no sound was heard. Its position was somewhere midway between the zenith and the horizon, the direction of flight being towards the South-West." (*Gøteborg Handel & Sjøfarts Tidning*.)

August 8; Gottland:

"Teacher John Persson observed a space craft of unknown origin. The altitude was judged to be 1,500ft. and the speed estimated as 800 km/h. A faint bluish light was seen at the nose of the rocket." (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

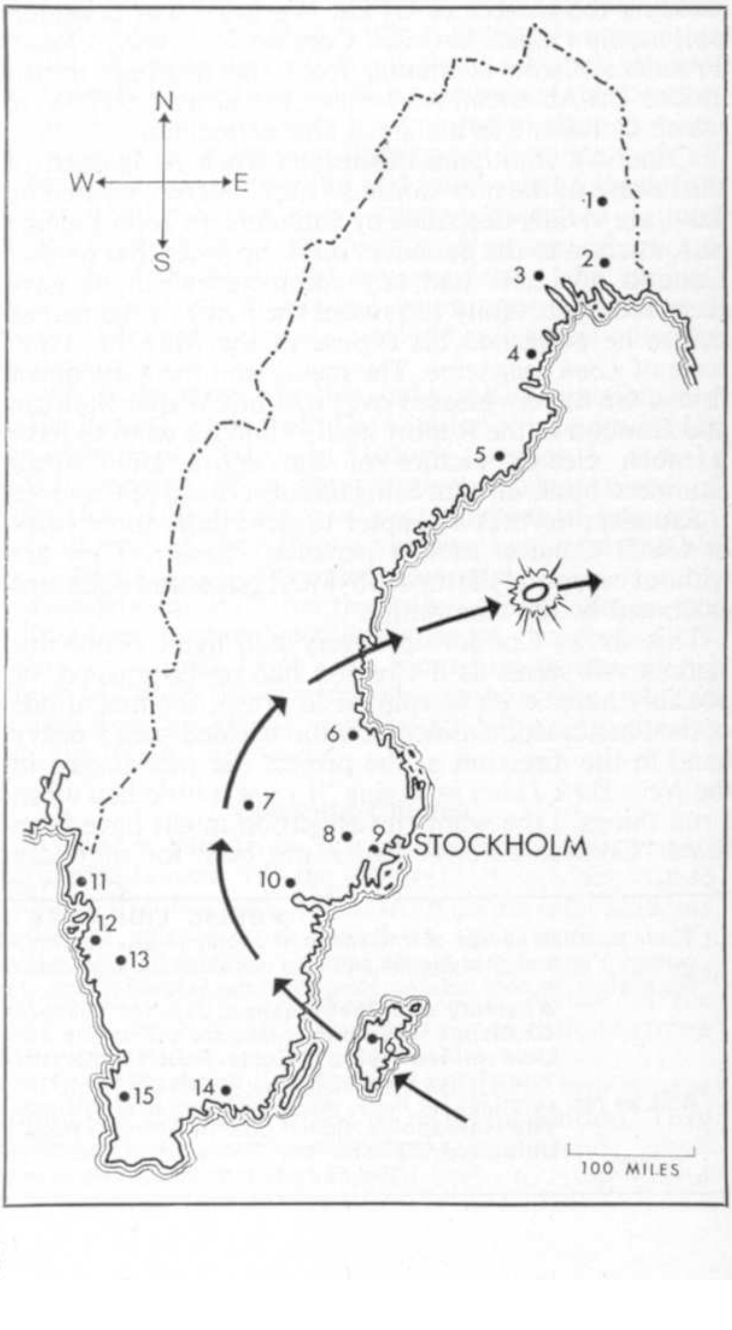
The same day a Norwegian dentist observed another rocket, but unfortunately no place is mentioned. This was cylindrical in appearance and its speed, according to the observer, was "tremendous". No sound was heard.

August 8:

"During a visit to Central Sweden last Monday a person, whose name is not known, heard a high pitched sound and soon afterwards saw an object which passed his car with great speed, just 10ft. above the ground. This passed him at a distance of only 30ft. and disappeared in a southerly direction. He could not tell whether the thing hit the ground or simply went through the wood. Another witness was with him at the time." (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

KEY

1. Övrekalix
2. Kalix
3. Pitea
4. Skelleftea
5. Umea
6. Gevle
7. Örebro
8. Melaren
9. Stockholm
10. Norrköping
11. Uddevalla
12. Göteborg
13. Boras
14. Karlskrona
15. Skane
16. Gotland



KUALA LUMPUR UFO

Our cover photograph is one of three taken of an aerial object over Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, by Mr. P'an Ch'en Hsiang on May 27, 1968, at 6.50 a.m. This photograph appeared in the *Malaya T'ung Pao* on May 29, 1968, and the incident was described by Mr. Yip Mien Chun for FSR (World Round-up, September-October 1968). I have since translated the full text of the *T'ung Pao* article in which I came across the Chinese for UFO: **"lai-li pu-ming-ti fei-hsing wu-t'i".** Our thanks to Mr. Yip for obtaining the prints. We expect to publish the second photograph, and the text of the article, in our next issue.

GORDON CREIGHTON.

* Denotes adjectival ending.

來	Come
歷	origin
不	not
明	clear
的	—*
飛	fly
行	going
物	object
體	body

August 9; Gelve:

"A yellow fireball was seen travelling eastwards at a height of approximately 1,500ft.

"North Sweden: Another fireball of the same type, also travelling eastwards.

"Stockholm: Yet another of those yellow fireballs, this time seen twice during the day. On the first occasion the object was seen only as an intense light." (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

An article in the same newspaper reported an interesting observation the following day:

"On the 9th a rocket-like object was seen somewhere in Central Sweden that produced a whistling sound as it crossed the sky at high speed. The object had a triangular nose and its colour was almost black. There were no appendages and no light was seen.

"Late that night a fireball fell to earth in Stockholm, and a little later another passed the town in a westerly direction."

Other nations must have started to take an interest in what was happening, for in the newspaper *Svenska Dagbladet* (7-8), there was an affirmation from the USA that they had nothing to do with it. This information came from Marquis Child, who further pointed out that the opinion in higher circles was that Sweden had become a test-area for secret weapons. However, it was known that no nation besides the USA and USSR were capable of producing such things, so one wonders what the informed circles in the Army really believed at that time.

August 12:

All names were censored by the Army, but I think all these observations must have been made in Central Sweden.

At 9.00 p.m.: Three fireballs in formation were seen by several people; just afterwards two were seen exhibiting the same manoeuvres, and to make the whole performance complete a third one appeared, taking the same course.

At 9.00 p.m.: A fireball was seen splitting into four luminous rings that fell to the ground.

At 8.45 p.m.: An object shaped like a torpedo was observed.

August 12; Gøteborg:

"At 9.00 p.m. a 'fish-like' thing was seen that silently fell from the sky." (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

August 13; Uddevalla:

Three persons, who were out fishing, witnessed something which experts did not believe to be a meteor. "The thing rotated while emitting a continuous stream of sparks. Suddenly it lost speed and fell into the water near the three men." (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

August 13; Karlskrona:

At 8.00 p.m.: "The object passed the witnesses at a distance of only 150ft. It was cigar-shaped and only 5ft. long. The body emitted a faint green light and smoke was seen issuing from the rear."

August 13; Stockholm:

"The rocket produced an intense purple light and, as far as the witness could see, was cylindrical. The observation lasted only 10 seconds." (*Gøteborg Handel & Sjøfarts Tidning*.)

August 14; Skåne:

Three rockets were observed at intervals of only five minutes. They all emitted some kind of light.

August 19; Laxå:

At 8.00 p.m. six persons saw an object passing over the roof-tops. "It was shaped like a 9ft.-long cigar and at the nose we could see some small spheres; a bluish light was produced at the rear. No sound was heard." (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

August 24; somewhere in Sweden:

As mysteriously as these heavenly visitors had come as mysteriously did they disappear, leaving but occasional traces which nobody but a few had seen and that probably nobody knew how to interpret. On this date, as far as I know, the last 'ghost-bomb' was seen. A Norwegian student and his friend, a Swedish engineer, were out boating on a small river near the latter's home. It was about 8.45 p.m. when they became aware of a strange light approaching the boat:

"'Suddenly, as if shot out of nothingness, I saw a light appearing in the South-East. coming towards us at tremendous speed. As it came nearer we could see that it resembled the full-moon, perhaps a little more elliptical. The light emitted was very intense and rather like that which the incendiary bombs used to produce when exploding; however, this light was bluish on the brim of the object. As it passed immediately overhead it grew so bright you could see as well as on a sunny day! The fireball, or *eldklotet* as it is called by the Swedes, had until now approached us in a parabolical trajectory. When passing us it released four "stars" which fell silently to the ground and on landing grew dark. As these "stars" were released the fireball too grew dark, and after a few seconds when we were able to see in the dark again, we could observe an oblong rocket passing us in a perfectly horizontal trajectory about 900ft. above the ground. As far as I could tell it was about 10ft. long. At the rear we observed some glowing points, and these points were the last things we saw. The course was towards the North-West during the whole of the observation.'

"The engineer, who knew the surroundings well, estimated the speed to be in the region of 2000 km/h!" (*Aftenposten*.)

SOURCES

Of the newspapers quoted in parts I and II, *Dagbladet*, *Arbeiderbladet* and *Aftenposten* are Norwegian. All others are Swedish. Other sources: *Scandinavisk Astronomisk Tidsskrift*, *Monthly Notices R.A.S.*, *Naturen*.

AN UNPREPOSSESSING CREATURE SEEN IN CANADA

Gordon Creighton

AS I have often said, I yield place to nobody in my enthusiasm for benevolent tall beings of Nordic type with long hair and no dental caries, provided that due account is also taken of the clear evidence that there are certain other creatures around whose physical proportions and appearance scarcely accord with the classical Greek ideal of human beauty and whose motives may be anything but nice.

I give below a translation of a recent report about this sort of creature from French Canada. The case was investigated by M. Henri Bordeleau, who visited the site, interviewed all the witnesses, and concluded that they certainly were not hoaxing or lying. The story was first printed under the name of M. Jacques Hébert in the Montreal paper *La Presse* for August 7, 1968, and was subsequently reprinted in the G.E.P.A. Bulletin *Phénomènes Spatiaux* (Paris) for December 1968. FLYING SAUCER REVIEW is indebted to M. René Fouéré, Editor of *Phénomènes Spatiaux*, for permission to reproduce it here.

At 9.00 p.m. on the evening of Sunday, July 28, 1968, at Saint-Stanislas de Kostka, a small place located in Beauharnois County and about 45 miles (72 km.) to the south-west of Montreal, five teenagers or children were together, in the house of a family named Sauvé. They were three boys, Paul Sauvé (20), Régent Léger (15), Denis Léger (12) and two girls, Nicole Sauvé (14) and Joanne Sauvé (9).

Paul Sauvé and Denis Léger were upstairs. It was almost completely dark outside. Denis Léger happened to glance out through the window, towards the extensive fields of wheat and oats, and glimpsed what he afterwards described to the investigators as "a sort of circle surrounded by a bright red halo", by which he is assumed to have meant "a globe with a halo around it."[1] He called Paul and the others, and all came rushing to the window in time to observe the arrival of a second object of similar appearance. This one came to a halt in the sky, while the first one was settling down gently in one of the fields of oats, at a point about 300 metres from the house.

At no time did any of the party think that what they were seeing were not "flying saucers", particularly as Denis Léger at once began to remind them of an experience that he himself had had one afternoon in the summer of 1967 and that was known to them. It had been at just about the same time of the year. He had been riding his bicycle, and a silent shining saucer had followed him for about five minutes, flying at a height of some 6 or 7 metres from the ground and at a distance of about 150 metres from him. The upper part of the craft, transparent, appeared to be made of a sort of thick glass, and inside it he could see three small dark beings, two sitting on one side and one sitting on the other side. The boy had been extremely frightened, as his father subsequently confirmed to M. Henri Bordeleau. As far as the father was concerned, there was no possibility that the boy had invented the story.

By now one of the two machines outside had vanished from sight, while the other one still stood there in the field. The young people trooped off down into the yard, led by Denis, the boldest, flashlight in hand.

Suddenly the beam of his torch caught the silhouette of a creature, at a distance of less than 15 metres from them, behind a wooden fence. The creature raised its right hand to the level of its face and opened and closed the hand, "like a baby trying to salute", as Denis put it.

Instant panic ensued, the whole party fleeing back into the house, while the creature, moving with short strides, withdrew towards one of the barns.

All the young people seem to have had a very good view of the creature, except for its lower extremities, and describe it as follows:

Height: about 1 metre 20 cms.
Shoulders: broad.
Head: black or brown, somewhat bigger than a human head, and, as it were "imbedded in the shoulders", there seeming to be no neck.
Eyes: round, with wrinkled skin around them.
Ears: surrounded by fuzzy black hair.
Mouth and chin: "seemed normal".

The skin of the creature's face was "furrowed, rough, with knobs on it." The hands (with five fingers) were "very wide, black, knobbly and rough like the skin of a toad."

Once back in the house, Paul Sauvé and Denis Léger ran upstairs again to keep watch. The luminous saucer was still standing there in the field.

Nicole Sauvé dashed to the telephone to call her parents, who were absent from the house, while the youngest, 9-year-old Joanne Sauvé, fled to the bathroom and locked herself in there.

The 15-year-old boy Régent Léger had remained downstairs, at one of the windows, and now suddenly he found "the same ugly black face peering at him and the knobbly hand knocking on the glass." Emanating from the creature was a sound which he described as "like the mooing of a cow." Paralysed with terror, the boy stood there, quite unable to shout or move, until, a few moments later, the creature withdrew from the window and disappeared from his view.

Shortly afterwards, watching from upstairs, the whole party saw the UFO, still surrounded by its "red halo", rise slowly and vertically into the air and vanish in the night sky. It made no sound so far as they could tell.

Henri Bordeleau and a number of his fellow-investigators questioned the witnesses exhaustively and were unable to find any grounds for rejecting their story.

The Sauvé and Léger parents, although understandably finding it difficult to believe that their children had seen a "monster", were nevertheless convinced that they must have seen *something very extraordinary*, so great and so marked were their fear and anxiety.

At the spot where the witnesses said they had seen the luminous craft standing, the light of dawn showed eloquent proof. Over a circular area 5 metres wide, the oats had been crushed and flattened "with a circular motion, as though by a whirlwind." Extending outwards from this area into the standing oats was one long "arm-like" mark, 20 metres in extent and some 10 centimetres wide.

As G.E.P.A. Editor René Fouéré observes, this story at once calls to mind Mrs. Coral Lorenzen's famous Venezuelan cases of 1954[2]—in which witnesses were set upon and injured by hairy creatures—or the (seemingly less bellicose?) hairy and bewhiskered "Martians"[3] encountered by children at 6.30 p.m. on October 9, 1954 at Pournoy-la-Chétive, in France, and by M. Roger Barrault at Lavoux only half an hour later—hirsute fauna which, thanks to the hilarious comments of the French press, now have their assured place in the literature of "Ufology".

On the other hand, as M. Fouéré points out, the shape of the actual craft, the size of the creature itself, and its close approach to the window to peer in at the occupants, inevitably puts us in mind of the famous hobgoblins of Kelly-Hopkinsville.[4]

Monsieur Fouéré hopes to secure more details of this remarkable Canadian case, and we await his further report with interest.

NOTES

1. The Editor of *Phénomènes Spatiaux* points out that there are considerable differences between the French spoken in France and that spoken in Canada, words often being used differently or having slightly different meanings.
2. See Mrs. Lorenzen's *The Great Flying Saucer Hoax*, 1962, and chapter VI of the same work, expanded and amended, with title: *Flying Saucers: The Startling Evidence of the Invasion from Outer Space* (Signet Books, N.Y., 1966.)
   See also Cases 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18 of my *Humanoids in Latin America* (FSR Special Issue THE HUMANOIDS); also Brian Stross's *The Ihk'als* and my *Middle American Creature Reports* (both in FSR for May/June 1968).
3. Aimé Michel: *A Propos des Soucoupes Volantes* (Editions Planète: 4th revised edition), pages 191/192. (The same two cases appear as Nos. 80 and 81 of Jacques Vallée's *The Pattern Behind the UFO Landings*, in FSR Special Issue THE HUMANOIDS.
4. See Jacques Vallée: *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*. Also his *A Descriptive Study of the Entities Associated with the Type I Sighting*, in FSR, January/February 1964. Also Donald B. Hanlon: *Questions On The Occupants*, in FSR Special Issue THE HUMANOIDS. Finally, I think that careful perusal of the literature of ghostly apparitions and psychism might reveal that there are already other cases on record in which these creatures with dark, knobbly, and furrowed or warted skin ("like a toad") have been reported.

ANOTHER FLOATING PLATFORM

Jonathan M. Caplan

GORDON CREIGHTON'S report on the floating platform at Aldeburgh (FSR for January/February 1969, p. 23) strongly resembles a case which I investigated a few years ago, and which I feel deserves more serious attention if only because it comprises a less familiar category of UFO.

The Reverend Pitt-Kethly of West London, needless to say a lifelong teetotaller, who assures me that he does "not doubt the evidence of his own optics", witnessed his floating platform on Tuesday, October 18, 1955, at 4.10 p.m.

He was travelling on an Uxbridge line train to East Harrow, London. Visibility was clear, so that when the train was halted by a signal at a West Hampstead viaduct, Reverend Pitt-Kethly immediately noticed the strange craft as it sailed effortlessly into view. As in the Aldeburgh case, the platform was travelling on a perfectly straight course at a speed of about 20 m.p.h. The craft was reddish-brown and grey, quite soundless, the size of a small bus, and at a height of approximately 120ft. (It is curious that the Reverend, like Mrs. Whiteland at Aldeburgh, was reminded of a German troop carrier—though, of course, he realised that he was observing something quite different).

During the three to four minutes that the object was in view, Reverend Pitt-Kethly noticed about 30 immobile helmeted figures with human faces—all apparently dressed in khaki uniforms—some of whom were seated and staring fixedly forward. Reverend Pitt-Kethly was so amazed and puzzled that he wondered how such an object with its low trajectory could possibly clear London.

Perhaps the most vital parts of Mrs. Whiteland's and the reverend gentleman's recollections are, that the former noted that the occupants were "staring", and the latter that they were "looking forward like robots". It requires very little deduction to conclude that the craft were engaged primarily in observation, and here perhaps is their motive and, indeed, their advantage.

The more conventional saucer, cigar or sphere, with their usual lack of wide apertures, are usually totally ill-equipped for close ground observation, at low altitude, by large groups of ufonauts. The floating platform would appear to rectify this deficiency admirably, even being more unobtrusive than the more sophisticated UFO, and even giving the impression of being more translucent and "fourth-dimensional" than most UFOs—perhaps they are even a projected image to selected individuals, which would account for the apparent lack of witnesses in both cases.

Whatever their structure, and I feel it to be a more physical and tangible one than I might have implied, it must be agreed that an evaluation of those areas over which such platforms have been sighted could well be enlightening upon the entire UFO enigma, for those selected areas must surely warrant the close scrutiny they would appear to receive.

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome, We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

SOFTLY, SOFTLY IN MENDOZA

Charles Bowen

WHAT did Dr. Condon's University of Colorado UFO investigative project set out to do? Was the intention *really* to investigate the problem with a view to deciding whether or not it was worthy of further and more intensive study? Or was its objective merely to find a way to throw a wet blanket over the subject *as far as the public is concerned?*

For a few months FSR was prepared to rub along with the committee, offering a measure of assistance, and magazines, which were accepted. We were even prepared to concede that a proper investigation might be under way, although one editorial article had contained a hint that the project may have been set up because the United States Air Force was tired of the bad press it was receiving for its UFO explanations, and wished, by so doing, to gain breathing space.[1]

However, the 1967 summer months brought a trickle of disturbing news items which started us speculating. We would have preferred to have avoided this, but the appearance of unfortunate statements attributed to Dr. Condon, and remarks by Mr. Low to friends of ours at the 1967 Prague Astronomical conference, caused us to feel very uneasy. When the dirty Colorado linen was eventually washed in public in May 1968,[2] it was recorded in black and white for everyone interested in the subject to read and interpret that prejudgment of the UFO case seemed to have been the order of the day.

Negative

When the Condon Report appeared on January 9, 1969, "ufologists" knew that the Condon conclusion[3] that ". . . further extensive study of UFOs cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby"—based as it was on "careful consideration of the record as it (*was*) available to us [*the Condon Committee*]"—had in effect been based on a small hand-picked sample of cases. Even in that careful selection there were cases which defied explanation, yet Dr. Condon stated negatively that ". . . those scientists most directly concerned . . . have individually decided that UFO phenomena do not offer a fruitful field in which to look for major scientific discoveries."

That this was not unexpected was made clear in the pages of FSR, although we were sure that the phenomenon would go on apace somewhere or other in the world in spite of the general acclaim which would be accorded Dr. Condon's conclusions. And that is precisely what happened, for we have been treated to one of the phenomenon's northward surges through the South American continent, a fact that has remained unremarked in all but a few circles, and thereby hangs a tale.

In a recent FSR Editorial[4] the immediate effect of the January 9th release was examined. The continuing effects have been seen to be similar: scientists who might have become interested now know that they have been warned off; national newspapers, if they publish anything at all about an incident, take care to see that only its unusual aspects are presented, suitably magnified and completely out of context, so that they appear doubly crazy.* Which is why nothing is known of the progress of the South American wave, other than that there has been an incident in Brazil where it was reported that a man had seen a flying saucer that had landed, and that he saw little green men as well, but was dissatisfied with the newspaper report that announced it because the little men were *red*.[5]

Another "message"

Nevertheless, while most people are busily "getting the message" of the first few paragraphs, the good doctor has a few more things to say in the remaining paragraphs of his opening conclusions and recommendations.

Dr. Condon is careful not to dismiss UFO reports out of hand, suggesting that any future new "clearly defined, specific proposal for study should be supported,"[6] although later adding that the present is not the time for the federal government to set up a major new research agency.

Thus UFOs, although of no apparent *scientific* value, are not denied; indeed, Dr. Condon carefully leaves the military forces to sort them out for themselves ". . . within the framework established for intelligence and surveillance operations" but *without* the continuance of Project Blue Book.

I suggest that there, in the "intelligence and surveillance operations", is precisely where UFOs always have been, and will continue to be accommodated.

Banned in Mendoza

Let us now hark back to the case which so intrigued me last October: a "funny, ha ha!" case in which the witnesses suddenly did a swift about-turn and confessed that the whole thing was a hoax. I refer to casino cashiers Peccinetti and Villegas of Mendoza in Argentina,[8] and I would like readers to look once more at the small "box" alongside the introduction to the article. This carries an extract from a news item headed FLYING SAUCERS BANNED[9] in which it is stated that ". . . the authorities have issued a communique that the spreading of saucer rumours is an offence penalised by law", and added that prison terms were contemplated for people indulging in spreading unwarranted fear. The authorities

* This article was written and typeset before it was known that the *Sunday Express* would be publishing extracts from Robert Chapman's book *Unidentified Flying Objects*. While this is a welcome exception to an otherwise dreary rule, nothing serious has to date appeared *anywhere* relating to to current important UFO events—C.B. (19.4.68).

Forced to recant: Fernand José Villegas (left) and Juan Carlos Peccinetti

Alleged humanoid calligraphy on the ancient Villegas Chevrolet calls for intense study

quoted were those of Mendoza Province, so it is small wonder that UFO contact claimants Peccinetti and Villegas felt obliged to recant.

Recapitulation

Briefly, these two gentlemen were the ones who claimed that their veteran car had been stopped on the calle Nequén in Mendoza city, at a place where they encountered a landed object and its "crew". The crew had shown them a TV-like documentary with a moral, while another of their number had etched crude hieroglyphs all over the precious car. Thereafter the witnesses had their fingers pricked before the creatures returned as if along a beam of light to their "machine".

There was something about that case that I found fascinating, in spite of the recantations, and I am now doubly glad that I wrote it up, and published it.

Softly softly . . .

The effects of the Condon Report, as well as the threats of legal action and police repression, are such that people begin to tread warily. So it was not surprising when one of my many trusted correspondents in Argentina sent me a follow-up to the Peccinetti and Villegas case, and it came with a request for anonymity both for the individuals concerned and for the writer of the letter.

The sequel to the Mendoza story is as follows: a builder working at the house of the niece of my correspondent (in a big city in mid-Argentina) told the young lady and her husband that he had visited Mendoza earlier this year. While there he had learned from a nurse at the hospital where Peccinetti and Villegas had been admitted, that doctors and psychiatrists had found the two casino workers to be completely sane and rational. While in Mendoza the builder had gone, out of curiosity, to see the landing site. He said: "There was a foreign car there, with foreign-speaking people measuring the place, and nobody was allowed to get close". The police were everywhere, he added, and he believed the foreigners were Americans.

An "intelligence and surveillance operation" in progress? Softly softly catchee monkey? Possibly; which prompts me to observe that "someone" somewhere still cares. That same someone who dreamed up the Colorado Project—headed by the leopard guaranteed not to change his spots[10]—to divert or discourage public interest? To dampen down that interest with a big, expensive wet blanket? It could be so.

Remember Chascomús

That "someone" could be the same "someone" who was so interested in the car of the "Vidals" which disappeared with its owners near Chascomús in Argentina. The car was being driven to Mar del Plata where its owners were to attend a dinner party: other members of the party were driving the same route.[11]

Two days later the missing couple telephoned their distraught and puzzled friends from the Argentinian consulate in Mexico City. A large crowd of reporters met the "Vidals" when they stepped off the air liner from Mexico, and it was learned that they had been transported the 6,400 kms. in most peculiar circumstances (teleported?) after driving into a thick mist or fog on the Mar del Plata road. It was also learned that their car, the paintwork of which had been burnt as if with a blow torch, had been sent to the United States. However, even before the reluctant travellers returned to Buenos Aires, the clamps of silence were being put on the case, and nothing more has been heard about it other than that Vidal is not the true name of the principals.

Closing thoughts

The way I read the situation is that without the world-wide reports from citizens there would be no subject to funnel into the secret realms of Intelligence: reports by service personnel alone would hardly be sufficient to keep it alive. So, although regulation JANAP 146 (liability to 10 years' imprisonment and $10,000 fine for U.S. service personnel disclosing UFO information to the public) has not been revoked, and although Project Blue

Book has had the Condon finger put on it (this "public relations" section of the U.S. Air Force failed in its debunking mission) I sense that interest in the subject will never be crushed out of hand because it is of vital interest to Intelligence. While that interest remains, however, we will have to expect occasional "wet blankets" like the Condon Report, solely to check the growth of public over-enthusiasm for the subject.

The Mendoza case gives a hint as to how those members of the public who report a UFO experience may well thereafter find themselves in a cleft stick. I can see this sort of thing posing as big a problem for interested Intelligence circles as it does for us, for they will have to tread very warily for fear of cutting off their supplies of information. As for us, we will find from now on that we will have to rely more and more on private information, and even rumour-type stories, to give us the initial leads we need. That, however, is one of the ways Intelligence works, so we should not be averse to its use.

It all boils down to the fact that we will have to keep *ourselves* informed, for with newspapers, radio and television looking for the most part for a laugh or a smirk, and with Intelligence agencies playing hard to keep the ball in their own court,[12] it will be up to us to organise ourselves into news-relaying networks, channelling our findings into fact-recording media like FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. Only in this way, for the present, will the public be able to educate itself in these matters.

Marks on the door of the car

NOTES

[1] Editorial, *Taking Stock*, FSR, January/February 1967 (Vol. 13, No. 1).
[2] Fuller, John G., *Flying Saucer Fiasco*, LOOK magazine, May 15, 1968.
[3] *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects* (edited by D. S. Gillmor and published in paperback by Bantam Books), hereafter called the Condon Report. See Section I, *Conclusions and Recommendations* by Dr. Edward U. Condon.
[4] Editorial, *Getting the Message*, FSR, March/April 1969 (Vol. 15, No. 2).
[5] *The Sun* (and other newspapers) for 15.2.69. This case has been investigated and reported in very great detail by representatives in Brazil and will appear in a forthcoming issue of FSR.
[6] *Conclusions and Recommendations* (Condon Report), page 2.
[7] *Conclusions and Recommendations* (Condon Report), page 5.
[8] Bowen, Charles, *One Day in Mendoza*, FSR, November/December 1968 (Vol. 14, No. 6).
[9] *Buenos Aires Herald* issue for September 7, 1968. (Note that the alleged encounter took place on September 1.)
[10] See Editorial, *The Leopard's Spots*, FSR, May/June 1968 (Vol. 14, No. 3).
[11] Galindez, Oscar A., *Teleportation from Chascomús to Mexico*, FSR, September/October 1968 (Vol. 14, No. 5).
[12] It has been suggested that covert interest in the subject could spring from a hope to be the first to make contact with the alleged occupants of UFOs and so gain any possible political or military advantage.

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WHO ARE THE MARUTS?

Peter L. Gilman

IN *Worlds in Collision*,[1] Immanuel Velikovsky drew a provocative parallel between two sets of "flying armies" described in two very different religious documents of the past: one set, having to do with the "Terrible Ones" occurring in the Old Testament book of *Joel;* the other set, having to do with things called "Maruts", gleaned from the pages of the Vedic hymns.

Professor Velikovsky, arguing on the basis of the similarities involved in the two texts and of an established etymological connection between the name "Marut", which was, as I've said, the name given to the Vedic phenomena, and the Umbrian word "Mars", wished to show that his thesis of a series of near-collisions between Earth and Mars in the 8th century B.C. was thereby reinforced: according to Velikovsky's interpretation, the aerial armies of *Joel* and of the Vedic hymns were "comets which after the collision between Venus and Mars" (which preceded those between Earth and Mars) "multiplied infinitely and began to spin, each one, on its separate minuscule orbit—following behind or preceding the parent planet, Mars."[2]

In this article I am offering a re-interpretation of Velikovsky's evidence which will allow us to understand how the Terrible Ones of *Joel* could crawl on walls and through open windows, on the one hand, and how, on the other, the Maruts of the Vedic hymns could be actually prayed to and regarded as friendly gods. That is to say, whereas Velikovsky has quite legitimately brought up certain similarities for our consideration, it is my own intention—being somewhat of an iconoclastic and brutal nature—to point a gleeful and irreverent forefinger at some of the differences, and to show that the differences outweigh the similarities.

The differences will show that the aerial army of *Joel* is a mere swarm of grasshoppers, but that the phenomena known as the Maruts cannot be grasshoppers or comets either one, but something far more interesting than either. As a matter of fact, I believe the Vedic Maruts were UFOs—pilots and craft, depending on the contexts—and partly in view of eliminating any unnecessary confusion between insects and UFOs, but partly also to put forth some additional evidence for the Martian origin of—some—UFOs, it has seemed to me worth exploring the matter in a preliminary way.

First of all, then, *Joel*. When I said "a mere swarm of grasshoppers", I of course had no intention of belittling the message of the Jewish prophet. There was a swarm of grasshoppers, or locusts, and it practically ruined Israel. Joel's first lines show that for him there was nothing "mere" about these insects—far from it:

"Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation. . . . What the cutting locust left, the swarming locust has eaten. What the swarming locust left, the hopping locust has eaten, and what the hopping locust left, the destroying locust has eaten. Awake, you drunkards, and weep; and wail, all you drinkers of wine. . . . For a nation has come up against my land, powerful and without number; its teeth are lion's teeth, and it has the fangs of a lioness.," etc.[3]

Now Joel is talking about locusts in this opening passage of his book and although this leads him later on to the more suitable—one might say, inevitable—prophetic vision of the world's last night (falling stars, red moon, and so on), there is no real reason to suppose that he is being coy or secretive about the actual nature of what is plaguing Israel at the time of his writing. Grasshoppers do fly, do cause enormous destruction, do becloud the very sun by their great numbers. On the other hand, there seems no good reason to believe that a grasshopper would be a fitting symbol or useful mnemonic device for comets—isn't the coming generation capable of remembering comets, and if Joel saw comets why should he desire his grandchildren to remember locusts?

"A powerful army drawn up for battle. Before them peoples are in anguish, all faces grow pale. Like warriors they charge, *like soldiers they scale the wall.*"[4] I quote from Velikovsky's quotation of Joel, but the italics, needless to say, are not his. We also read in Velikovsky: "They march each on his way, they do not swerve from their paths", but for some reason he has forgotten to cite: "*They run upon the walls; they climb up into houses, they enter through the windows like a thief.*"[5]

Now I have a very profound and warm admiration for Professor Velikovsky and his theories, but with the best will in the world I cannot believe in comets "scaling walls" and "climbing into our windows like a thief." There is something so monstrously unsubtle about the way a comet will come through one's window, as some of us may have learned to our sorrow.

Another example of this suspicious "selectivity" occurs when Velikovsky cites: "Fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns . . . and nothing escapes them."[6] The elided two verses specify: "The land is like the garden of Eden before them, but after them a desolate wilderness", which plainly puts us back into a locust context: "fire" is of course simply Joel's metaphor—and a good one, too—for the effect of a vast swarm of these ravenous creatures on verdant farmland: "like the crackling of a flame of fire devouring the stubble"[7] follows only a few lines later. There is nothing in any of this but grasshoppers. And there are so many of them that by *Joel* 2:20, one is beginning to feel a little crawly about the whole business. In *Joel* 2:20, the close of the insect-phase and the prelude to the vision-of-the-last-day stage, we read: "I (Jehovah) will drive the northerner far from you (Israel), and drive him into a parched and desolate land, his front into the eastern sea, and his rear into the western sea; *the stench and smell of him will rise. . . .*"[8]

But let us bother ourselves no longer about these locusts!

What are the Maruts?

The most obvious difference between Joel's treatment of his terrible flying army and the Vedic hymns' treatment of theirs is in the attitude of the writers: Joel is

lamenting and despairing; the Vedic hymns have nothing but praise and awed admiration for the Maruts: "Indra (Mars), powerful hero, you give to us the glory, terrible Indra in the midst of the terrible Maruts. You are powerful, and you give us the victory. . . ."[9] "Your charge, O Maruts, is dazzling. . . . We pray to you, great Maruts. Eternal voyagers of space (or: the sky). . . ."[10]

Furthermore, the Maruts glow with a fantastic light: "Like the dawn, they give off rays of fire in the dark night . . . their blinding light. . . . In their splendid course, unchecked, they have dressed up in their brightest colour."[11] There is nothing like this in *Joel*. In *Joel*, the army of the Terrible Ones *darkens* the sky, never illumines it. In the Vedic hymns, although the Maruts are described as causing darkness in one or two passages, in most passages they are described as bright, light-bearing, burning, dazzling. . . .

One might feel tempted to ask at this point: but why couldn't the Maruts be Velikovsky's comets, since it seems obvious enough now that they weren't Joel's locusts?

First of all, of course, the force of Velikovsky's argument is in the multiplicity of independent and correlating testimony from points far distant from each other on the globe. He posits global catastrophe, thus he must find global agreement. In the present case, he had the bare minimum agreement—two parties—and we have just seen that one of them must assimilate to insects. Thus his argument is without force: the Maruts seem to have been a locally observed phenomenon.

But there are two more positive reasons for rejecting Velikovsky's interpretation of the Maruts as comets.

The first is that, as Velikovsky himself points out, the majority of the Vedic hymns are dedicated to the Maruts as if to gods, but—as Velikovsky neglected to add—not merely to gods as such (this might be comets, easily enough), but to gods who actually intervened in the history of the Indian nation to which Brahma is said to have "spoken" by revelation—rather, to whose priest-poets he "spoke". But a natural force does not take sides in human warfare and usually it is nothing if not aimlessly destructive: volcanic eruptions, floods, showers of meteors, locusts, and so on. At the same time the Maruts are far from being harmless: "The Maruts through their lightning bolts, strike with the thunder, burn with wind, shake the mountains."[12] Yet the Maruts' destruction is *not aimless*, for they are referred to constantly in these hymns as *fellow-warriors*, assuring victory to their Indian allies in a way that evokes at once the idea of a modern military force in which air and ground forces co-operate against the enemy: "Our victory is violent, magnificent, total, crushing, and splendid. The tireless army of the Maruts. . . ."[13] "Indra, powerful hero, you give *us* the victory, terrible Indra amidst the terrible Maruts. You are terrible and you give *us* the victory"[14] (my italics). The Maruts thus strike selectively, with something we must compare to human intelligence, only the enemies of the Indian nation.

The second reason for rejecting Velikovsky's comet theory in connection with the Maruts is that he has picked out those passages of the Vedic hymns which describe the Maruts as glowing airborne chariots and treated them as if they adequately characterised the complete phenomenon. Yet as Paul Misraki has indicated,[15] the Maruts are generally classified or described as a kind of non-human rational being, in the same general category with angels and demons, gods, demi-gods, genies, trolls, cherubim, and so on. A thorough study of the Maruts, then, would obviously involve doing justice to both these aspects of the Maruts, namely, as luminous and rapid air-chariots; and as non-human but rational beings. Of course, as we have already had occasion to note, a certain amount of overlapping is bound to arise: thus the air-chariot bombards selectively, that is, according to intelligent control. But if the two aspects are not accorded equal weight, then we will have another half-analysis resulting in something less than half the truth. Velikovsky's unfortunate tendency in this respect could well serve as an object lesson to any and all of us whose enthusiasm in research is always threatening to blunt the edge of an objective desire to get at the *truth itself*.

Now I do not propose to undertake any extensive analysis of the role played by the Maruts in the Vedic hymns—at least, not in the present article. We can be reasonably certain, however, that that role was very large, and that a thorough study is in order. From the point of view of religion, one tends naturally to see the Maruts as occupying the same sort of role in the development of the Hindu faith as that apparently held in the development of Judaism and Christianity by the Cherubim (and perhaps other types of angelic beings): the Vedic hymns are at the base of the Hindu religion, being its sacred books, of which the *Pouranas*, *Soutras*, etc., are commentaries. It is perhaps worth mentioning that in both cases we have to do with beings apparently so concerned to establish and further a particular body of religious and ethical doctrines on a particular nation of men, that actual participation and co-operation in the wars of that nation are not excluded from their programme. And yet two vastly different religions are seen to develop among the Jews and the Indians!

In this concluding passage I wish to discuss briefly the question of the origin of the Maruts. And now Velikovsky is back "on our side" again with some most

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interesting information! It is that (a) the Maruts are always associated in the Vedic hymns with Indra, the Indian equivalent to Mars; and secondly that (b) the name "Mars" (genitive: Martis) seems to have the same origin as "Maruts". But for those of us no more disposed to trust Velikovsky's etymology than his entomology, it is reassuring to find that in this judgment he is following a linguist and authority on the Vedas, F. Max Müller, who writes[16]: "Why refuse to recognise in 'Mars Martis', a parallel form of 'Maruts'? I won't claim that the two words are identical; I simply affirm that their root is common. . . . If any doubt subsisted as to the identical origin of 'Marut' and of 'Mars', it should be dispelled by the Umbrian *Cerfo Martio*, which . . . corresponds exactly to the expression *sardha-s maruta-s*, the army of the Maruts. Such perfect coincidences could hardly be accidental."

Max Müller wrote this passage in 1891. As far as I'm aware, he didn't believe in flying saucers (or their 1891 equivalent) and would probably not even have accepted a free year's subscription to FSR, designed to complete his education on the subject. But he seems to have provided us with a rather valuable link between the planet Mars and those demi-gods in flying chariots known to the readers of the Vedic hymns as Maruts. . . .

We shall see, I believe, as time passes and evidence accumulates, more and more reason to believe that there is an advanced non-human civilisation on the very door-step of our world and that this civilisation has had varied and enormously significant influence on our terrestrial history. By some, the mysterious small visitors from the red planet have been called cherubim, by others, they have been called Maruts. What will be the total picture, when the pieces have all been fitted together! God only knows—and, of course, the Martians themselves. But it would surprise me very much if that final picture turns out to be an altogether rosy one to the eyes of the human race.

What if they even tried to give us back God . . .? They seem to have such a religious temperament!

NOTES

[1] Velikovsky, Immanuel: *Mondes en collision*, trad. de Henri Morisset, Stock, Paris, 1961 (in this article I have made my own *re*-translations).
[2] Velikovsky, page 241.
[3] *Joel* I: 3-6.
[4] Velikovsky, page 238.
[5] *Joel* II: 9.
[6] *Joel* II: 3.
[7] *Joel* II, 5.
[8] *Joel* II: 20.
[9] Velikovsky, page 235.
[10] *ibid.*
[11] *Joel* II: 10.
[12] *Joel* II: 10.
[13] Velikovsky, page 238.
[14] Velikovsky, page 235.
[15] Thomas, Paul, *Les Extraterrestres*, Plon, Paris, 1962, page 16. (English language version *Flying Saucers through the Ages:* N. Spearman.)
[16] Quoted by Velikovsky, page 367, note 28.

TWENTY YEARS BACK

Brinsley le Poer Trench

WE will now recall the sighting of a UFO by one of the best qualified witnesses ever to see one. The following brief account is reproduced from my recent book exactly as it appeared there.[1]

"The distinguished astronomer, Professor Clyde W. Tombaugh, discoverer of the planet Pluto, was the witness of a UFO.[2]

"It was at about 10.45 p.m. on August 20, 1949, that Professor Tombaugh was enjoying the evening air outside his house at Las Cruces, New Mexico, with his wife and mother-in-law.

"He happened to glance up directly overhead and was amazed to see six or eight greenish lights flying southwards at uniform speeds, which immediately suggested to him they might have been windows of some large flying object dimly outlined against the night sky.

"Professor Tombaugh commented afterwards that in all his thousands of hours of night sky-watching he had never seen anything so strange. The UFO made no sound."

Aimé Michel made some interesting comments on this sighting in his excellent first book.[3] He pointed out that Professor Tombaugh gave his first account of what he had seen to *Life* magazine, and later supplied Professor Menzel with a fresh account for his book.[4]

Michel asks why Menzel did not reproduce in his book the account given him by Tombaugh verbatim, without changing a syllable, as he insists on others doing?

Michel continues, "An even more serious point is that he received from Professor Tombaugh some drawings of the object observed. Such drawings, made by an astronomer of Professor Tombaugh's reputation, would have been a precious addition to the dossier on flying saucers. . . . In this book, which contains no fewer than 96 illustrations, including quite a number portraying medieval monsters, imaginary Martians or the visions of the prophet Ezekiel, no room has been found for a picture of a flying saucer, drawn by perhaps the most qualified witness who ever saw one."

Michel goes on to state that our old adversary Menzel (a contributor of several articles to FSR) proceeded to attack Tombaugh's sighting on the basis that what he saw "was the reflection of ground lights on a thin curtain of haze."

Michel pointed out that Tombaugh's description was very circumstantial, and ended up by remarking: "Whatever we may think of Professor Menzel's theory, it is surely odd that Professor Tombaugh, a distinguished astronomer, accustomed by long experience to observe meteorological and astronomical phenomena, did not suggest such an explanation himself. . . ."

Frankly, while recognising that Professor Menzel is a distinguished man in his own right—no one disputes

(*continued on page 31*)

BUFORA AT THE NEW YEAR SHOW

Stephen Smith

FOR the first two weeks of 1969 the British UFO Research Association found itself a centre of attraction at the *Daily Mail* New Year Show staged in London. By invitation of the *Daily Mail* Features Department, BUFORA acted as sole consultants on the staging of an exhibition stand (No. 153) at the paper's annual show for the younger generation. The Show ran from December 28, 1968, to January 11, 1969, and received 130,000 visitors, of which number about 2,000 a day passed through the BUFORA stand.

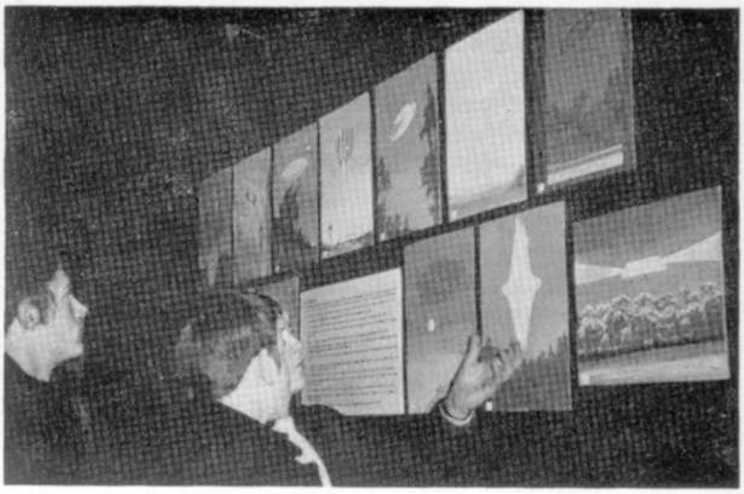
The stand covered over 1,000 sq. ft. of floor space and contained a 100ft. run of display space in the shape of a three-sided room. The outside west wall was covered by a series of reproductions of UFO photographs ranging from the little known to the notorious, from the dubious to the well attested. Suitable captions accompanied the photographs and emphasis was made both here and in other parts of the stand that photographic material was only a minor part of the UFO evidence as a whole, which evidence is amply supported by first-hand accounts from hundreds of unimpeachable witnesses.

On entering the stand at the south-west corner the visitor could examine, in turn, on the inside of the west wall, a map of UFO sightings over Great Britain in 1967 compiled from BUFORA records, a list of the USAF UFO figures culled from Project Blue Book 1968, reproductions of 16th century illustrations of unusual aerial phenomena at Basle and Nuremburg, a montage of press-cuttings from British papers covering the October 1967 wave of reports of flying crosses, and a selection of acknowledged fake UFO photographs.

This display of material led to the main attraction of the stand. At the north end of the display was a working representation of a "typical" UFO sighting based on a number of actual reports. From a protective barrier, the visitor could see a diorama of a typically English country scene from somewhere in the southern chalk downlands. "Sunlight" is falling on golden wheat. Whilst the visitor watches, the "sunlight" fades into the deep blue of a clear night. From afar comes a faint humming whistle that grows in volume until suddenly a "craft" flies into view. It is like two plates joined together rim to rim by a girdle of small red and white lights and topped by a cylindrical, low, windowless "cabin". The craft "flies" across the sky, hovers unsteadily, and floats back on its course. Then faster than the eye can follow, it vanishes from sight. The "sun" rises and nothing can be seen of the craft.

Way in, past the dubious and the well-attested, sensationally underlined

Commissionaire turns his back on mobile field unit and some of the 24,000


Startling artist's licence ?

Will it ? Won't it ? The Johnson UFO detector

Thanks to the *Daily Mail* advertisers and BBC TV (notably the children's programme "Tom Tom") the working diorama was well publicised. Many parents with children came to see the diorama and in so doing were confronted by the rest of the display material. But also visitors to the stand just came out of curiosity and on these too we hope some of the spirit of the stand rubbed off.

When the visitor had managed to drag himself away from the enigmatic vanishing saucer model, he could examine along the east wall of the stand a set of 12 artist's impressions of UFO sightings. These were prepared by a member of our affiliated society, the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena, from witnesses' accounts and sketches. Great care was taken not to allow artist's licence to creep into the interpretation of witness accounts, but nevertheless some of the paintings are pretty startling even to the experienced UFO investigator.

The remainder of the east wall was taken up by an account of how BUFORA's Research Section operates and a montage of the Angus Brooks story of the cruciform craft he saw over Moigne Down in October 1967. On display were the BUFORA questionnaire that Mr. Brooks filled in, his sketches of the craft, the Air Ministry explanation of the sighting and Mr. Brooks' views on the Air Ministry explanation, together with our own evaluation.

Turning from the walls of the stand, the visitor could examine at close quarters the BUFORA Mobile Field Unit in the centre of the floor space. Our conversion of a Bedford light van to house three investigators in reasonable comfort with provisions and sleeping space for a long weekend's examination of a sighting report drew some interest, mainly from our younger visitors, on account of the telescopes and range-finders displayed inside the van, along with an ELF radio receiver and Geiger-Muller radiation monitor. On the floor of the van, with the other necessities of investigators, were shown two examples of "UFO detector", the McCarthy magnetic field change detector and the Geos compass needle device.

On the counter at the BUFORA stall at the south end of the stand was a working demonstration of a "UFO detector" of the McCarthy basic type but designed and built by BUFORA member Mr. Peter Johnson of Norwich. Such interest was shown in this item that one of the BUFORA members manning the stand had to be permanently stationed beside the detector giving a continuous demonstration of its operation.

The BUFORA stall displayed copies of various paperback editions of UFO literature, copies of regular UFO magazines, including the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, and copies of the BUFORA Journal. In addition visitors were encouraged to take away with them leaflets describing BUFORA's researches and investigations work and drawing their attention to our monthly meetings in London.

For BUFORA, stand 153 was a success story. Of the 130,000 visitors to the show, probably 24,000 passed through our stand, the majority showing rather more than casual interest in the display material and many ready to argue or discuss the various aspects of UFOlogy. We had intelligent and sometimes revealing discussions with servicemen and policemen who came on to the stand out of curiosity. With them and with the more interested public we argued the radar cases, demolished the cranks, demonstrated the UFO detector and sent them away consciously thinking about the case for the UFO. In this respect the stand was worth every effort put into it, not only for BUFORA but also for the UFO scene in general and British researchers in particular.

ADVERTISEMENT

BUFORA NEWS

NATIONAL SKY-WATCH DAY. Saturday 28th June has been appointed for this year's 12-hour watch. Delegates at the BUFORA Bristol Conference were favourably impressed by the results of last year's *organised* watch. For further details write to: Edgar Hatvany (SKW), 19 Richmond Avenue, East Bedfont, Middlesex.

NORTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE. Saturday 6th September 1969; Wakefield, Yorkshire, organised by the Halifax Branch. Guest speaker: Cecil Maxwell Cade, MIEE, MIERE, AFRAeS, AInstP, FRAS. Organising Secretary: Trevor Whitaker, 253 Huddersfield Road, Halifax, Yorkshire.

LONDON LECTURES will recommence in September; A.G.M. on 4th October. Contact section supporters are invited to attend meetings run by "COS-MOS". Details from: Norman Oliver, 95 Taunton Road, London SE12.

For details of the BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, its journal and activities, please send a 9in. x 4in. S.A.E. to: Miss C. Henning (FSR3), 99 Mayday Gardens, London SE3.

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to ackowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Aimé Michel on FSR's past

[In FSR for March/April 1969 the Editor commented on M. Aimé Michel's remarks about the early days of FSR in his book *Pour ou Contre les Soucoupes Volantes* (with Georges Lehr): Editions Berger-Levrault, Paris 6e.]

Sir,—When I first made the acquaintance of FSR, it was so crammed with stories having no relation to an objective research that I did not even keep the first few numbers, any more than I kept any trace of other little reviews of that period that have since vanished from the scene, and from which FSR was in no respect any different. This must have been about the time of its third year of publication. A considerable proportion of its articles were devoted to contact stories or to pseudo-psychism and with no bearing on parapsychology, which is a respectable science. Nothing then permitted one to suppose that the Middle Ages had followed upon a Classical Period, and that, a few years earlier, under the control of the excellent writer and historian Derek Dempster, FSR had been a serious review.

I was very surprised to learn this, and beg you to convey my apologies to Derek Dempster. I will make a suitable modification of this passage—concerning the origins of FSR—in future editions of my book.

All the same, it cannot be contested that for a long time, and possibly right up to his death, our friend Waveney Girvan himself believed in the literal authenticity of Adamski's stories. I had some pretty lively exchanges of correspondence on this subject with him and also with his predecessors in control of FSR—though not with Derek Dempster. Incidentally, I admit that one of these days it will be necessary to find some method for the evaluation of such stories, which possibly do signify something, whatever that something may be.

Yours sincerely, Aimé Michel, Paris, April 22, 1969.

P.S. If you reprint the Dempster issues, put my name down as a customer.—A.M.

Analysis of Marliens Powder

Sir,—In order to complete the table published at the end of part II of *Humanoids Encountered at Baleia*, I went to Genlis Gendarmerie to examine the results of the analysis of the purple-whitish powder allegedly left at Marliens, Côte d'Or, by a landed UFO at the beginning of May 1967. This is a résumé of the tests achieved in Paris on July 6 of the same year.

1—Description

Clay clods covered with a light film of purple-whitish particles.

(a) *Preliminary tests*
- i—U.V. rays: no special fluorescence;
- ii—Chemical tests
  - —enlarged 50 times: White film giving impression of partial fusion. (Contradiction with the fact that there is no trace of fire, neither on the soil, nor on the surrounding vegetation.)
  - —insoluble in water, nitric acid, alcohol, benzene, ether and petrol;
- iii—Flame: reddish.

(b) *Chemical analysis*
- —Diphenylamine: traces
- —Nitrites: traces
- —Chlorides: light traces
- —No cobalt
- —No alumina.

2—Conclusions

The characteristics of indisolubility lead one to think that the indicated substance should be composed of some infusible oxide (like silica or alumina) although chemical analysis is unable to confirm this hypothesis, mainly because of the smallness of the sample.

So—no magnesium, but certainly aluminium and silica; just as in the four results published.

Bien à vous—H-J. Besset, 21-Chenôve, France, February 28, 1969.

UFO/psychic phenomena overlap ?

Sir,—The following item, under the heading "Eye Movements will Control Spaceships" recently caught my attention. It appeared in *Science Horizons* No. 99 (December 1968) as follows:

"A control device that could let astronauts change their position in space by moving their eyes has been developed by Honeywell Incorporated of Boston, Massachusetts.

"The switch, called an oculometer, can be used by control machinery and various electronic devices, and also may be useful for physiological and psychological test motoring.

"The oculometer operates by continuously tracking a part of the boundary between the eye's iris and pupil, and the reflection in the cornea of a light source within the device."

This development recalls references we have to UFOs being controlled by "thought patterns". In your *Strangers about the House* article in the September/October 1968 issue FSR you mention "support for the idea that there is an overlap somewhere between UFO manifestations and ages-old psychic phenomena". I too have looked for comparisons in this area of research and would refer you to my article "UFOs and OSC" in *Orbit* (Tyneside UFO Society), Vol. 4, No. 3, where it is stated that some types of UFO are controlled by these thought patterns. Reference is also made to what is termed the crystallising of the more highly evolved beings into a familiar (more recognisable to us) shape when contact is made; to what we call 'contactee ', a good example being Orfeo Angelucci's experience.

My studies have revealed that there is no doubt an overlap such as you suggest and this has caused a great deal of the confusion that exists. It seems apparent now that the right climate may have been reached for this to be taken into serious consideration, giving us a better opportunity to sort the wheat from the chaff.

John D. Llewellyn, 63 Masons Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, March 6, 1969.

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AN EXCELLENT "PUBLIC RELATIONS" JOB

Charles Bowen

IT was good news indeed when our friend **Robert Chapman,** science correspondent of the *Sunday Express*, told us that he was planning to write a book on British UFO cases. We could be sure, we felt, that **Unidentified Flying Objects** (Arthur Barker Ltd., 5 Winsley Street, London W1, 30s.) would be a first-rate public relations job for a maligned and misrepresented subject. Sure too that it would be an objective study with the added blessing of Mr. Chapman's easy, readable style. We were not disappointed!

Regular readers of FSR will recognise familiar cases, but, apart from the author's quiet comments, there is much else to consider, namely his views on the cult and 'contactee' scene, and especially the Allingham contact claim of 1954. On this score alone the book is to be highly recommended.

However, this study will have a special attraction for many of us, for here is the work of a well-known science writer who, although he has no UFO axe to grind, will still leave the "new" reader asking many questions about this persistent phenomenon. Herein lies its value as a public relations operation. The subject of UFOs has been greatly maligned in the past—and the none-too-distant past at that when one considers recent TV presentations—because of the actions of its cultist fringe and the over-exuberance of many of its well-meaning amateur adherents. Bob Chapman shows the lay reader that the very real and persistent UFO problem is approachable in a down-to-earth, sane manner.

The excellence of this public relations aspect was confirmed—and, I hope, many "new" lay readers guaranteed—when the massive - circulation *Sunday Express* carried large excerpts from the book in its April 13th and 20th editions. "Are the facts hushed up?" asked a bold headline which was seen by millions of readers. From many of the cases which are quoted the reader will certainly deduce that "hushed up" they were; before he or she reaches the end of the book, the dilemma which plagues the official world will be appreciated. To paraphrase a passage that appears on page 125: "Even if they (Ministry of Defence) are convinced in their own minds that a strange flying machine was reported it is difficult to see how they could admit this without causing national, if not world-wide consternation. Imagine the public reaction. Even a casual announcement that the sighting was of some earthly but unknown aircraft would have caused troubles enough. Whose aircraft? Where

(*continued from page 27*)

that—it must be recognised that he does not have an open mind on the subject of flying saucers. Readers of his book and his many articles will recall that he attacks the claims of everyone who has seen a flying saucer either "explaining" their sightings as "temperature inversions" (his big line) or, as in the case of car drivers who reported their engines to have inexplicably stopped in the vicinity of UFOs (a common phenomenon), describing them as people who were nervous and had temporarily lost control of their vehicles.

We are indebted to Aimé Michel for placing certain facts on record. Professor Menzel is privileged, as indeed we all are, to put what he wishes in his own book, but it seems he has not fulfilled the standards he has required in others. He did not put a verbatim report of Tombaugh's sighting supplied to him in the book and did not include the valuable drawings either: Menzel's case against Tombaugh was loaded on one side from the start.

It would be interesting to see if Professor Menzel would agree to loan the drawings to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW so that they could be reproduced in a future issue, and allow our readers to see this pictorial evidence of a remarkable sighting by a most distinguished man.

SOURCES

1 "The Flying Saucer Story" by Brinsley le Poer Trench. Neville Spearman, London, 1966, pp. 27-28.
2 "The UFO Evidence", Editor Richard Hall. Published by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), Washington, 1964.
3 "The Truth about Flying Saucers" by Aimé Michel. Criterion Books, New York, 1956, pp. 58-62.
4 "The World of Flying Saucers" by Donald H. Menzel. Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y., 1963.

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from? . . . What about our aerial defences?" . . . and so on.

As I've long suspected, we'll be stuck with the "wacky" explanations for a long time to come.

It will be interesting to see the overall reactions to this book and its wide publicity, especially coming as it did in the wake of the Condon Report. And, about that Report, it is obvious that Mr. Chapman's hastily-added chapter could not have been based on a full reading of that document: he just wouldn't have had time! Furthermore he would have seen that the "bleak and uncompromising" statements at the outset were soon contradicted both in the written word, and in the absence of explanations for a number of selected yet insoluble cases.

Once maligned, now respectable

It is a well-known fact that flying saucers are not unique in having been long-maligned in many quarters. Over a much longer period ball lightning has had every bit as rough a ride as flying saucers, with equally vicious opposition, but without perhaps the same concentrated volume of sensational publicity.

It is also commonly held among UFOlogists that the hitherto unacceptable lightning balls have suddenly acquired a new degree of respectability, especially when they can be trotted out as a blanket for UFO phenomena.

Providing such explanations is not the purpose of FSR's science consultant **C. Maxwell Cade** and **Delphine Davis** (Mrs. Cade) in their new book **The Taming of the Thunderbolts** (Abelard Schuman Ltd., 8 King Street, London WC2—also New York and Toronto—30s., or £1·50 in decimal terminology). In fact we are presented with a detailed and extremely interesting case history of the science and superstition of ball lightning, while witnessing some of its alarming aspects, and learning of its potentialities—in synthetic form—both in peaceful and in military use (where it is envisaged as a very superior defensive weapon as well as an awe-inspiring offensive one). Indeed the authors show that thunderbolts have acquired a very real respectability on their own account and regardless of any deft use in UFO-explaining.

Nevertheless it should be noted that there is an engaging chapter entitled *Fireballs and Flying Saucers* in which a number of cases are quoted where phenomena reported as UFOs were almost certainly manifestations of ball lightning. I fear I am unrepentant enough to think that a number of reports accepted as ball lightning could have been of something quite different, but Max Cade and his wife make good points about such things as globes of light following cars, and disappearing discs of light with hazy outlines beneath heavy cloud; they also insist that the extraordinarily versatile ball-lightning phenomena should be considered before resorting to an even more extraordinary conclusion when evaluating a flying saucer report.

C.B.

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Cover design and calligraphy by Pauline Bowen

World round-up *of news and comment about recent sightings*

AUSTRALIA

Giant Humanoids collect cane

The News of January 17, 1969, carried a report from Brisbane that on that same morning—

"A Rumanian migrant claims he saw three giant purple and yellow spacemen near Childers, about 200 miles north of Brisbane.

"Mr. George Vas, a repairman, his wife, Milanka, and daughters Olga, 14, and Maria, 13, all say they watched the spacemen for about 10 minutes.

"The spacemen gathered sugar cane and other plant specimens.

"Mr. Vas said he and his family were asleep in their caravan at the edge of the road. About 4.30 a.m. they were awakened by the barking of their dog, Ica.

"He heard a loud buzzing noise like a big swarm of wasps, and said he saw a spaceship. It was between 25 and 30 yards in diameter and looked like a Mexican sombrero.

"It gave off a brilliant violet colour. Other colours running through the air gave it an opalised effect.

"Mr. Vas said he and his family watched as three spacemen—about three times larger than humans—descended from the spacecraft.

"They had blocky arms and legs and shapeless bodies. They gave off a purple yellowish glow.

"After gathering specimens for about 10 minutes, the spacemen re-entered their spaceship and took off.

"The craft went straight up, travelling very quickly. As it took off, the hair on the family's bodies stood up as if affected by a form of magnetism.

"Mr. Vas said this was his third sighting of spacemen. He saw one as a child in Rumania in 1918, and another near Belgrade in 1946."

Credit: **Colin Norris** of The Australian Flying Saucer Research Society, Adelaide.

"Dive-bombing" UFO

The *Sun* (Melbourne) of December 2, 1969, told how—

"A motor mechanic said yesterday that he had driven at 95 m.p.h. after he had been 'dive-bombed' by a UFO.

"He and a youth with him had been 'scared stiff' and had reported the sighting to a policeman who later watched the UFO with them.

"The mechanic is Mr. J. A. W. Wyatt, 21, of Port Victoria, on Yorke Peninsula, about 100 miles from Adelaide. He said he was returning home from Maitland, where he works, at about 9.40 p.m. on Tuesday with Christopher Bolton, 15.

"On leaving Maitland they noticed a bright white light high over the town. It was travelling parallel to them as they drove south-west to Port Victoria.

"Mr. Wyatt said: 'We watched it for about nine miles, when it suddenly made a half-circle turn in front of us.

" 'It came down at a very slight angle toward us at a very fast rate. It got larger and larger and changed colour from bright white to orange-red. Although it is hard to judge height at night, I would say it was about a quarter of a mile above us. I reckon it was about 200 to 300 yards away and still travelling parallel to us. As we rounded a bend three miles from Port Victoria it continued straight on and appeared to be rising.'

"Mr. Wyatt said that when he got home he watched it through his father's binoculars, but could not distinguish any shape. It disappeared and reappeared so he and Christopher called Constable D. Guerin, who watched it with them.

"Mr. Wyatt said it was circular in shape, but was not making any noise. It had been a clear night. Constable Guerin said that when he saw the light it would have been about four miles away."

Credit: **J.K.** Victorian UFO Research Society.

Another Auto "Buzzed"

Again in the *Sun* (Melbourne) of December 13, 1968, we read that—

"A mysterious top-shaped object which has 'buzzed' two motorists near the cray-fishing town of Grey, about 20 miles from Millicent, has been seen as far away as Mount Gambier.

"The object, accompanied by a dazzling white light, terrified Mrs. J. Harvey, of Grey, about a month ago while she was returning home.

"It kept pace with her for five miles, travelling in front of her car.

"On Sunday night, Bill Chambers, 18, of Grey, was also driving home from Millicent when he saw the object.

"He said it stopped about 100ft. above the road and some distance in front of his car.

" 'When I reached it the thing hovered above the vehicle and no matter what speed I maintained it kept following me,' he said.

" 'When I was about a mile from home it sped off into the distance almost faster than the eye could follow.' "

Credit: **J.K.** (VUFORS).

Contact claim under investigation

According to the *Sunday Mail* of January 25, 1969, Dr. M. Lindtner of UFO Investigation Centre, Sydney, is investigating a claim by a citizen of Sydney that while on a hunting trip near Goulburn (southern N.S.W.) on December 28, 1968, he spoke to a being from Saturn. The report continues—

"The UFOIC will not release the name of the man, a 45-year-old carpenter, until they have fully investigated the circumstances of the supposed sighting.

"Dr. Lindtner said: 'This man had a similar experience 10 years ago in exactly the same spot, while fox hunting.

" 'He says he shot at and hit something, which let out a terrific noise.

" 'Then there was a flash, and something—we don't know what—burnt through the arm of his coat and left a small mark on his arm.

" 'The mark took a year to heal, but before it healed it grew in size and now measures 3in. by 2½in.

" 'It is exactly the same shape as the planet Saturn—a globe with a ring around it.

" 'The man still has the coat with the burn mark in it.

" 'Just after last Christmas, the man went back to try to find out more.

" 'He was there for four days, on the first day, he saw nothing, but on the second day the man saw the craft, of about 40ft. in diameter and 10ft. high.

" 'He approached the craft and a being walked around from the other side of it.

" 'The being had human characteristics, was about 5ft. 6in. tall, and had long hair and youngish features and wore silver-coloured shoes.

" 'He spoke to the being for about three minutes: it spoke English, but it seemed in a hurry to get away.

" 'The man asked the being where it came from and it said "Saturn."

" 'The saucer rose about 15ft. off the ground and hovered, then it moved away and disappeared over a hill.' "

Credit: **Colin Norris** of Adelaide.

BRAZIL

The fishermen's yarn

O Estado de São Paulo of October 31, 1968, carried the following story—

"Councillor Arlindo Massi and electrician Olímpio Secco, both resident in Rio Preto [São Jose do Rio Preto, 463 kilometres N.W. of S. Paulo] saw a luminous object whilst fishing in the River Turvo some 27

kilometres from town. It happened about 90 days ago at about 9.00 o'clock at night. Fearing ridicule, the two men have said nothing about it to anyone until now, but in view of the great number of flying saucer sightings in the Rio Preto district, they have got up the courage to tell their story.

"Three months ago, they went off fishing in the River Turvo. At about 9.00 o'clock at night, Sr. Secco looked behind him and saw a brilliant, intense light. He shouted to his friend: 'Arlindo, Arlindo, look at that star. It's almost as big as the moon.'

"Without looking round, the councillor replied, 'Ah, it must be Venus. Are you going to do some fishing, or stand there gaping at the stars?'

"But the electrician insisted, 'Arlindo, the star—if it is a star—is getting bigger, and it's coming down lower.' Councillor Massi looked round and saw the luminous object, still at a great height, but which looked like a torch of an orange colour.

"Some 40 metres from the ground, the strange light stopped and stayed there spinning on its axis, and apparently throwing off sparks. As the 'ball of fire' came closer to the ground, a strong wind started up; so strong that it broke the branches off several trees.

"The 'luminous object' stayed there for some four or five minutes, then described a curve in the sky and made off at 'frightening speed', to a place some 5 kilometres away, possibly just above the trees on the banks of the river. 'The strange object', affirmed Messrs. Massi and Secco, 'kept on spinning and throwing off sparks, and it seemed to be pulsating. The strong wind continued. While it was over our heads it was the size of a medium-sized room [probably about 5 metres diameter—N.R.]. Seen from a distance, it had the form of a cheese. The object stayed over the trees for 5 minutes and then went off towards Rio Grande at high speed and disappeared.'

"Sr. Arlindo Massi has a motor-scooter, and on this he tried to flee the place. But in his haste to get away, he burnt the clutch out. At this, the two of them were practically paralysed.

"After the light had vanished, the wind dropped and the two fishermen set out to push the motor-scooter to fazenda Tito Barbeiro, some 2 kilometres away. They left the machine there and then got a lift into Rio Preto, 25 kilometres from the fazenda.

"The administrator of the fazenda, after hearing the story, said that the object always appeared in that place. At first the employees used to be frightened, but now it is no longer a novelty. To them it is the 'Mãe de Ouro' (Mother of Gold), who comes down there.

"The administrator went on to say that the men believe that anyone who can hit the 'Mae de Ouro' with a shot will suddenly receive a tremendous quantity of gold. However, in exchange for the gold, he will lose his life, so that only others will benefit. The ball of fire is actually a ball of gold which, when it comes down, scatters itself among the stones. [This tale is common all over Brazil and some day I hope to investigate the Mother of Gold more fully—N.R.]

"Both Sr. Massi and his friend Sr. Secco are well-known figures in Rio Preto. Even so, the few friends they did tell of their encounter thought they were joking."

Credit to **Nigel Rimes,** to whom we are also grateful for the translation and the added notes.

Rain of bricks

Again in the newspaper *O Estado de São Paulo* (issue of November 11, 1968) we read how—

"Stones and pieces of bricks from no one knows where are falling at the residence of Francisco Silveira in 9 de Julho Avenue, Lençóis Paulista. The phenomenon started at 18.00 hours the day before yesterday when the stuff began to pour down. Soon afterwards it was falling inside the house as well and inside closed rooms too.

"Alarmed, Francisco's wife fainted and in his solicitude in trying to bring her round, Francisco managed to alert the whole neighbourhood. Very soon the whole town heard about what was going on, and very soon a multitude had gathered in front of the house. Many people entered the house where they noted that the stones were falling vertically but only became visible as they struck the ground.

"Even though the stones fell with considerable force, nobody was hurt, not even a child of only a few days, sleeping in its cot in one of the rooms affected.

"Throughout the whole of the night, the stones and fragments of bricks continued to fall, sometimes with terrific intensity. They poured on to the tiled roof and into the rooms below, making a tremendous noise. And yet not a single tile was broken.

"Dozens of people of undoubted veracity have testified to having seen the stones falling. Among them were a number of soldiers, sent by the local police station to investigate the matter."

Credit to **Nigel Rimes**—and thanks for his translation of this and several other items.

Mini-Disc frightens children

O Estado de São Paulo of December 5, 1968, reported how—

"A 'flying saucer' 30 cms. in diameter entered a house by way of the window and gave a terrific fright to brother and sister, Eugenia and Jesus Paez, who were asleep at the time and awoke when they heard the noise made by the object. The children said that the disc shone with light and gave them electric shocks when they touched it while they tried to catch it."

Credit: **Nigel Rimes.**

Regular visitor

From the *Diario da Noite* of December 5, 1968, we see that near Fortaleza (Meridional)—

"The strange object that has been flying about over Iracema beach has turned up again, only this time it stayed for rather longer, making an impression on everyone who saw it for nearly four minutes and then heading off for an unknown destination. It always turns up at the same time flying on the same course, and so people resident in the area are able to go out at 6.00 p.m., armed with binoculars, to observe the object whose appearances are now considered to be routine."

Credit: **Nigel Rimes.**

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en Iberoamerica y Espana

For those who read Spanish, we heartily recommend this new work by the indefatigable **ANTONIO RIBERA,** which presents a history of the UFO phenomenon from Mexico to the Antarctic, with a few cases from Spain.

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